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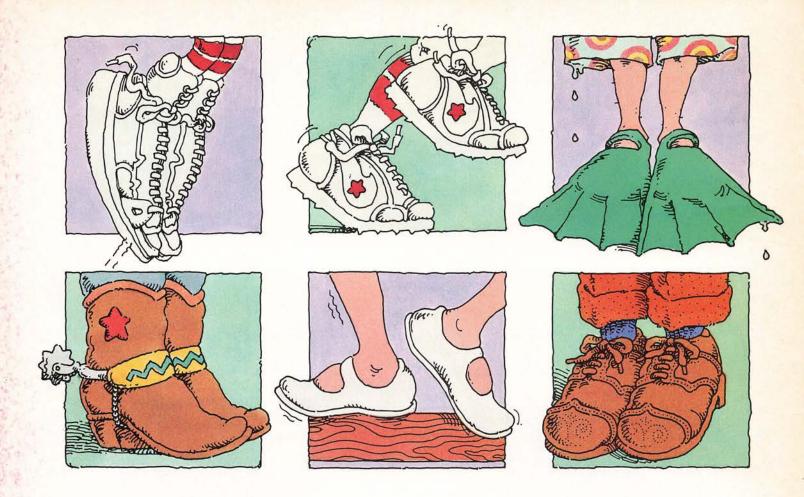
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On the cover: Tom Osborne becomes the Big 8's elder statesman. Photo by John Bills

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FUTURE SLATES

Oceanside, Calif.

Dear Huskers,

First, I'd like to compliment your magazine on the fine job you do covering Husker sports. I realize that the Nebraska football schedule is made many years in advance and I was wondering if you would print the schedules for the next five years.

Since I now live out of the state, keeping up with the Huskers is a difficult task. However, your magazine keeps me caught up on the latest Husker happenings. Thanks for your help. Robert D. Alderson

Robert: Here are the non-conference teams that Nebraska will face in the next five seasons. 1990: Sept. 8—N. Illinois, Sept. 15—Baylor, Sept. 22—Minnesota, Sept. 29—Oregon State. 1991: Sept. 7—Utah State, Sept. 14—Colorado State, Sept. 21—Washington, Sept. 28—at Arizona State. 1992: Sept. 5—Utah, Sept. 12—Temple, Sept. 19—at Washington, Sept. 26—Arizona State. 1993: Sept. 4—Wyoming, Sept. 11—Texas Tech, Sept. 18—at UCLA, Sept. 25—Colorado State. 1994: Sept. 3—Wyoming, Sept. 10—at Texas Tech, Sept. 17—UCLA, Sept. 24—Utah State.

BEFORE YOU WERE BORN

Dear Huskers,

I am 14 years old and I was wondering if you could tell me when Nebras-ka's last losing season was? Thanks. Ted Wayne Indianapolis, Ind.

Ted: The last time the Huskers failed to have a winning season was in 1961 when Nebraska went 3-6-1.

WHY PLAY OU LATE?

Dear Huskers.

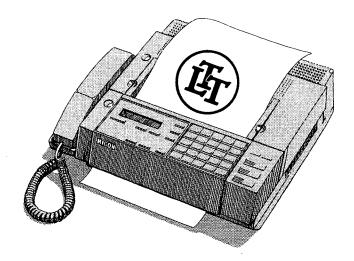
Before 1950, Nebraska seldom, if ever, scheduled Oklahoma as the last game of the season. After that, except for 1959 and 1978, Oklahoma was always the last game for the Huskers.

My question is why did OU and Nebraska start scheduling their game as the last one of the season? With Iowa State so close, it would seem that that would be the logical last game for the Huskers.

The Auburn-Alabama, USC-UCLA, and Michigan-Ohio State games are long-time rivalries, but the Nebraska-Oklahoma rivalry is fairly young (it began in 1962). I hope your research department can put some light on this subject. I truly enjoy *Huskers Illustrated*.

Lee Dinges San Mateo, Calif. Lee: After talking to the Big Eight headquarters, we hope we can shed some light on your question also. The conference believes that when winter hits the Midwest, it is better to schedule games that will make fans want to come to the stadium instead of staying indoors. If Oklahoma had been playing Kansas State instead of Nebraska last Nov. 19 in Norman (in a cold downpour and 30 mph winds), no one would have gone

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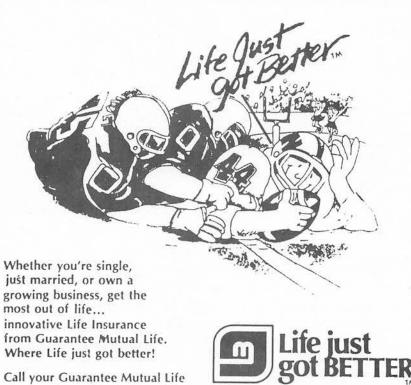
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to the game because it was assumed that Oklahoma would destroy the hapless Wildcats. But Nebraska came to town, and over 75,000 turned out for the contest. Attendance and weather play a big part in scheduling. It's that simple.

MAKE 'EM PAY

Dear Huskers,

I think it is good that Oklahoma and Oklahoma State will be banned from television and bowl games for the next two years. They deserve it because of illegal recruiting, as well as other infractions like drugs and rape.

Other schools in the conference are losing money because of these penalties. For example, I read in the April issue of Huskers Illustrated that Nebraska alone is going to lose \$500,000 because of the probations.

I think OU and OSU should pay at least one-tenth of the loss that all schools in the Big Eight will experience. Because of the banishments, ticket prices are increasing. 1989 Husker football tickets will cost \$18.50 each and, for the Oklahoma game, it will cost \$25 each. OU is planning to charge \$30 a ticket for its game against OSU.

Oklahoma and OSU are going to lose a lot of money because of the probations, but I don't think other schools in the conference should also lose money. Jim Hepler

TRUE BLUE FOR BIG RED

Dear Huskers:

Hampton, Iowa

Please do not sack the I-formation for the sake of a few wanna-be coaches. The offense itself is the envy of many programs throughout the country, including Oklahoma, which appears to be contemplating a change of the Wishbone to an offense with I-formation possibilities. Fans need to realize that not every team Nebraska puts on the field has the game-breakers, such as Roger Craig, Mike Rozier, Turner Gill and Irving Fryar. You work with the talent you have. The talent Nebraska has had most recently has given 190 percent, but they lack some of the skills of their predecessors.

Defensively, overall team speed in the line is already being resolved by the coaches. I am curious, though, as to whether or not we will see more manto-man defense in the secondary and less zone. Keep up the good work, and go Big Red.

K.J. Foster Vista, Calif.

Dear Huskers:

I cannot believe some of the letters I have been reading lately. These people call themselves Husker fans? What's the story? The Huskers have a great year, and those people are dwelling on what is wrong with the program. I don't understand. Ninety percent of the majorcollege teams in the nation would be happy with an 11-2 season. Granted, the two losses were disappointing. No one was more disappointed than I, but they beat Oklahoma and won the Big Eight championship. Some people are talking about changing the offense and saying that the team has no discipline or that the coaching staff needs an attitude change. They are probably the same people who booed at the Missouri game last year. Where do those people get this stuff? We are very fortunate to have one of the winningest programs in the nation, and Tom Osborne does it cleanly. I would say that Oklahoma is the one that needs to worry about discipline and coaches' attitude changes. You start playing with the offense and the coaching staff, and the next thing you know, you end up like Kansas: in a constant state of change and every now and then they are able to win over K-State or some other poor team.

Some of them are talking about playing with emotion and that the Huskers need more emotion. Hey, emotion is fine, and it can be a boost, but what the Huskers need is execution, and that comes through repetition and hard work. Playing with emotion might help you in a few games, but the emotional teams allow themselves to get upset because they can't reach their emotional peak against the lesser teams. First you work on execution, then you worry about emotion. Without execution, you are nowhere.

These people should be very happy with what you have here: a very fine, consistent winning program. It is ironic to me that we hear complaining in a year when the Huskers win the Big Eight championship and set a record for 27 consecutive winning seasons. I love my Huskers, and if any of you complainers want to give up on them, that's fine, but don't make us true fans listen to your babble. Just give us your tickets. Dr. Tom, we still love you and al-

ways will. Loren Wagner Culbertson, Neb.

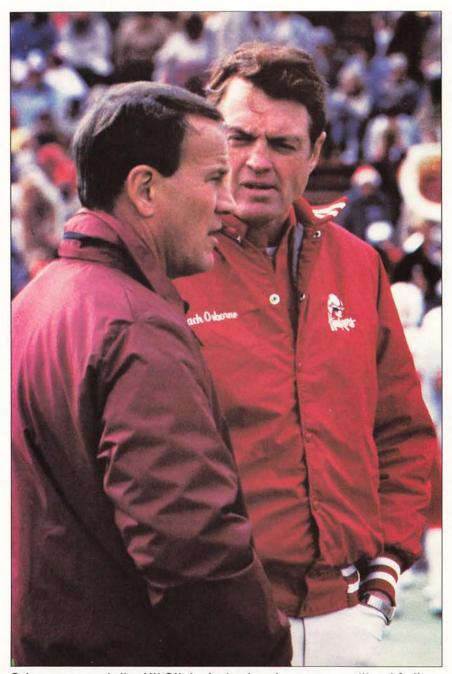
We want to hear your comments and answer your questions. Address them to "Letters," P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, NE 68501. ■



By Mike Babcock

An Oversimplification

COMPARISONS BETWEEN SWITZER AND OSBORNE MAY FINALLY SUBSIDE, BUT THE TWO REMAIN INEXTRICABLY LINKED.



Osborne expects the NU-OU rivalry to stay strong, even without Switzer.

uring the past 16 Big Eight football seasons, a common attitude among the more unreasonable and easily disappointed Nebraska fans seems to have been: when Tom Osborne has an edge in talent, his team usually wins. When Barry Switzer has the edge in talent, his team usually wins.

And when the talent is even? Switzer's team usually wins.

That's how those fans explain Oklahoma's 12-5 advantage in its series against Nebraska during Switzer's tenure as head coach.

It's an oversimplification, of course. And it's been an injustice to Osborne, whose teams have always been as wellprepared, if not as talented, as Switzer's.

You have to remember that Switzer was the winningest active coach in Division I when he resigned in June, of his own free will according to him, but apparently under pressure from his school's administration. The fact that he was awarded a "settlement" of \$225,000 seems to indicate as much. Coaches who resign without being asked or told to typically don't get settlements. More about that later.

Switzer's teams compiled a 157-29-4 (.837) record in 16 seasons, winning or sharing 12 conference championships and being voted the mythical national championship three times. Switzer ranks fourth on the NCAA's all-time list of winningest Division I coaches, behind only Knute Rockne, Frank Leahy and George Woodruff and ahead of such immediately recognizable names as Bob Neyland, Fielding Yost, Bud Wilkinson and Bear Bryant.

To be measured against that success is unfair to Osborne, whose teams have won 158 of 196 games with two ties (.811) in 16 seasons. With Switzer's resignation, Osborne, 10th on the

NCAA's all-time list, becomes No. 1 on the list of winningest active Division I coaches. Osborne's teams have won or shared seven conference titles.

And yet, because of his record against Oklahoma, he's probably never really received the respect his accomplishments deserve. Success at Nebraska has meant success against Oklahoma, which, in turn, has meant Osborne and Switzer since 1973, the year both became head coaches.

Osborne was Bob Devaney's handpicked replacement, and Switzer moved up when Chuck Fairbanks left for the National Football League's New England Patriots.

Osborne and Switzer have been inextricably linked, and not only because of their parallel head coaching careers, their dramatic success and the fact they've run the dominant programs in the Big Eight Conference. They're the same age, 52, and as so often happens under such circumstances, they've been drawn together by personalities so disparate as to be at the opposite ends of a continuum.

Switzer often acted like those he coached. He was free and easy, ever open, wearing his emotions for all to see. He was captain of a loose ship, allowing his players to be themselves and say what they wanted to say, without considering the consequences. He was cocky and brash, just like his players, with a quip and a quick smile.

Switzer was a constant source of frustration for Cornhusker fans. But the majority of those fans never seemed to hold it against him. He wasn't a coach you could dislike because he always seemed to be having a good time.

The night before the 1980 Nebraska-Oklahoma game in Lincoln, Switzer was a guest on Cornhusker athletic director Bob Devaney's television show. The winner of the game earned an Orange Bowl bid, and the loser went to the Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas. So Switzer arrived, unannounced, and presented Devaney with a bag of tacos on the show.

Some say that's why Oklahoma had an edge in its series with Nebraska. The Sooners always took a devil-may-care attitude about their annual showdown against Nebraska. Or so it seemed. And that approach was never more apparent, or discussed, than after Oklahoma's 20-17 victory over the Cornhuskers in 1986.

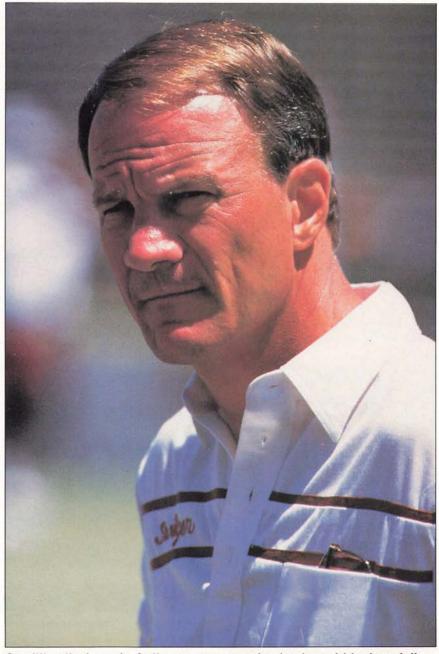
Tim Lashar kicked a 31-yard field goal with six seconds remaining to cap a dramatic rally that brought the Sooners back from a 17-7 deficit with 11 minutes left. Nebraska had fallen victim to Sooner Magic, everyone said. And the head magician was Switzer.

Osborne is the antithesis of Switzer.

outwardly calm, disciplined, low-key, almost to the point of dispassionate. Or so it has seemed.

Nebraska-Oklahoma meant Osborne-Switzer, the conservative against the liberal, the Big Red of the North against the Big Red of the South.

Ironically, the qualities that made Switzer a success probably contributed to his downfall, at an age when most businessmen are still in their prime. It's a sign of the times, according to Os-



Qualities that made Switzer a success also hastened his downfall.

THE NEW SOONERS

Gary Gibbs' rise to head coach is one of several personnel changes at Oklahoma that hint at a dramatic philosophical shift away from OU's previous saucy image.

Last spring, Athletic Director
Donnie Duncan (now entering his
third year) hired Dr. Thomas Hill
from Tulane as an academic
specialist with authority at the assistant AD level. Hill promptly
moved his belongings and his hardliner reputation into the jock dorm.
He's into discipline. Players who
miss class or defy rules must perform an exercise regimen that
doesn't end until they've lost their
lunch.

Compared to OU's previous academic counselor, Hill has farreaching authority and input into daily affairs of the football program.

Dick Foster was hired in June as on-campus recruiting coordinator. Previously head coach at Coffeyville (Kan.) Community College, Foster also falls into the tough-but-fair category, with his main job being to weed out thugs and mental lightweights. He's been given a key decision-making role in OU's recruiting strategy.

Foster, 55 and father of seven, takes over the important duties that former coordinator Scott Hill held. Hill, 35 and single, was a free spirit.

Gibbs, of course, believes in discipline and is an exceptional organizer. At his press conference, he called himself a "hands-on coach."

Duncan, running OU athletics in corporate-executive style, picked each of these men. All told, he's brought in three new assistant athletic directors in his three years and promoted one insider into that position. Compared to 1986, when easy-going Wade Walker was AD, Oklahoma has changed significantly at critical positions in its program.

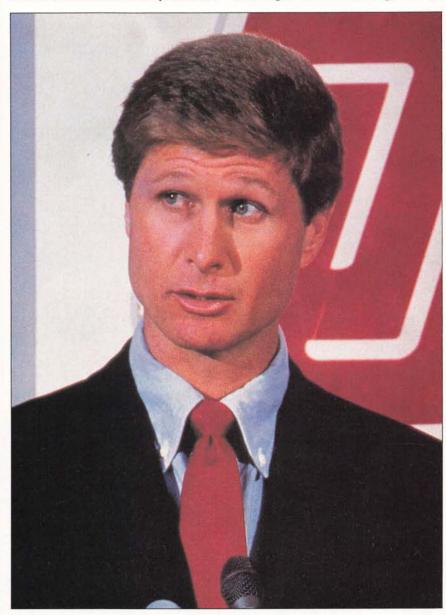
The short-term concern at OU may be finding a quarterback, but the long-term issue may be how flexible and adaptable the old Sooners are as they embrace the philosophies of the new Sooners.

borne. "When you go to coaches' conventions, there aren't very many in their 60s, while if you went to conventions of doctors and lawyers, there would be," he says.

"There aren't many assistants or head coaches in their late 50s, for that matter. They're rare."

It's becoming more and more difficult to meet the demands of the profession,

says Osborne. "There have been a lot of changes in the last 15 or 20 years. At one time, you were basically evaluated on how you did on Saturday. Now, you've got drug testing and increased media scrutiny; you're evaluated on recruiting and the academic performance of your players, as well as on what kind of person you are. I think coaching is more demanding, with all



Gibbs represents major change at OU.

the outside factors."

Incidents that preceded Switzer's resignation illustrate that. Three Sooner football players were arrested and charged with gang rape, allegedly in an athletic dorm. Another player, defensive back Jerry Parks, entered a no-contest plea to shooting a teammate with intent to injure. And quarterback Charles Thompson was arrested and pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

Switzer seemed especially close to Thompson and enjoyed telling the story of how the two met. Switzer saw a group of breakdancers on a street corner in Oklahoma City and was amazed by the moves of one in particular, Thompson, then the quarterback at Lawton (Okla.) High School.

Thompson was a Switzer favorite, and you have to believe the day Thompson was shackled and hauled away by police, an incident captured in a photograph carried on the cover of Sports Illustrat-

ed, Switzer was personally devastated. He was, afterall, a players' coach.

Switzer said of the players who got in trouble: "Barry Switzer should resign because of what they did? No more than I think their mothers and fathers should go to prison to serve their sentences."

To a degree, he probably was right. "Except for the illegal things that got them put on probation, what's happened there (at Oklahoma) could probably happen at most any school," Bob Devaney says.

Still, a coach must take responsibility for his players, just as he must take responsibility for his program. And the Sooners came up short on that account, too. They were found guilty of recruiting violations and were placed on three-years probation by the NCAA last December.

Oklahoma's problems were such that the 1949 Sooner football team, which went 11-0, refused to return to campus for a reunion until Switzer was replaced. That reunion is now back on the schedule.

Switzer's resignation hasn't necessarily swung the balance of power in the Big Eight in Nebraska's direction, though, at least not immediately. Switzer "had good rapport with his players, and he was a good motivator," Osborne says. But with Thompson gone, the Sooners' biggest concern going into this season will be at quarterback. For now, that will have more of an impact on Oklahoma than Switzer's departure.

"I don't know for sure, but I think Barry turned a lot of the X's and O's over to his assistants," says Osborne. "So he probably won't be missed there as much as people think."

In the short term, a head coach may be less important than his offensive and defensive coordinators, particularly in a program that has enjoyed Oklahoma's success. If Jim Donnan, the Sooners' offensive coordinator, had resigned, "it probably would have had more effect,"

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Osborne says. "It would have been the same way defensively."

Gary Gibbs was Switzer's defensive coordinator. Now, he's Switzer's replacement as head coach.

Oklahoma's history of hiring in-house is well-documented. Switzer himself was promoted to head coach, at age 36, after spending three seasons as the Sooners' offensive coordinator. And like Gibbs, Switzer took over a program that was going on NCAA probation.

If the University of Oklahoma administration had been satisfied with the direction of the football program, it probably would have promoted Merv Johnson, Switzer's 53-year-old assistant head coach. But Oklahoma was looking for new direction, a new attitude.

Johnson, who came to Oklahoma from Notre Dame in 1979, has a reputation for being a nice guy and a straight-shooter, qualities that might or might not serve him well as head coach of a major college football program.

That became a moot point, however, when Sooner athletic director Donnie Duncan recommended to the Oklahoma Board of Regents that it hire Gibbs as Switzer's replacement.

Gibbs is a Duncan man. Duncan's

"I haven't lost my enthusiasm. I'm looking forward to this season and several after that."

— Tom Osborne

respect for him goes back to when they were both members of Switzer's staff. When Duncan left for Oklahoma to become head coach at Iowa State in 1978 — the year before Johnson arrived — he apparently tried to persuade Gibbs to go along.

Johnson and Donnan, on the other hand, both arrived at Oklahoma after Duncan left for Iowa State. They're Switzer's men. With the hiring of Gibbs, Duncan must feel like he's gaining some control over a program that had gone its own way.

Osborne says he wasn't surprised by the decision to hire Gibbs. "I really didn't have any particular preconception," he says. "I figured it would be between Merv (Johnson) and Gary Gibbs. I guess the logical man would have been Merv. But I like all three (including the 34-year-old Donnan). They're all capable coaches, and I don't know all the factors (that went into choosing a replacement) or who made the final decision."

The 36-year-old Gibbs seems to have a personality more like Osborne's than Switzer's, and he's gone on the record as saying he will get the program under control. "I respect Gary Gibbs, and I've told him that several times," says Os-

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borne. "He seems like a nice enough person."

After Nebraska's 7-3 victory over Oklahoma in Norman last fall, Gibbs "came over after the game and wished us well" against Miami in the Orange Bowl, Osborne says. "He told us if there was anything he could do to help, he'd be glad to."

Osborne replaced a Hall of Fame coach in Devaney, a changeover that posed some unique problems in that "I felt I wasn't always being evaluated (for what I did) on the field," he says.

Gibbs may find himself in a similar situation replacing Switzer. There's a significant difference, however, according to Osborne. "Bob (Devaney) was one of the most successful, most popular coaches in the country (when he retired). The same isn't necessarily true for Coach Switzer. Barry left with a tremendous won-lost record but not with the unanimous support or popularity Bob had," says Osborne. "Some peo-

ple in Oklahoma were ready for a change."

Not surprisingly, Osborne downplays his moving up to the No. 1 spot on the list of winningest active coaches, by percentage, in Division I. "I don't see how it's going to change how I operate," he says. "We always work as hard as we can. I don't feel any differently. It's like being rated No. 1 at the end of a season."

He hasn't been affected by the demands of his profession, the burnout that contributed to Switzer's departure. "I haven't lost my enthusiasm. I don't feel any more burned out, any different or more complacent than I did 16 years ago. I enjoy coaching now more than I did then, in fact. I'm fine. I'm looking forward to this season and several seasons after that," Osborne says.

Still, Switzer's resignation and the circumstances surrounding it are cause for reflection. Last season, Nebraska opened with a victory over a Texas

A&M team coached by Jackie Sherrill in the Kickoff Classic. And the Cornhuskers completed the regular season with the victory over Oklahoma, their first in five seasons.

Sherrill also resigned, in the wake of an NCAA investigation into his successful program.

"A year ago, I wouldn't have thought Jackie Sherrill and Barry Switzer would both be out (of coaching) now. And yet, all of a sudden, they're gone," says Osborne. "It's a strange business."

Following Switzer's emotional announcement that he was stepping down, Osborne released a prepared statement, which said, in part: "I was sorry to hear that Barry has decided to resign as football coach at Oklahoma. We have been friends and competitors for a long time, and we have shared some great moments in college football."

Like it or not, the two were always evaluated, to a large measure, on how they did against each other.



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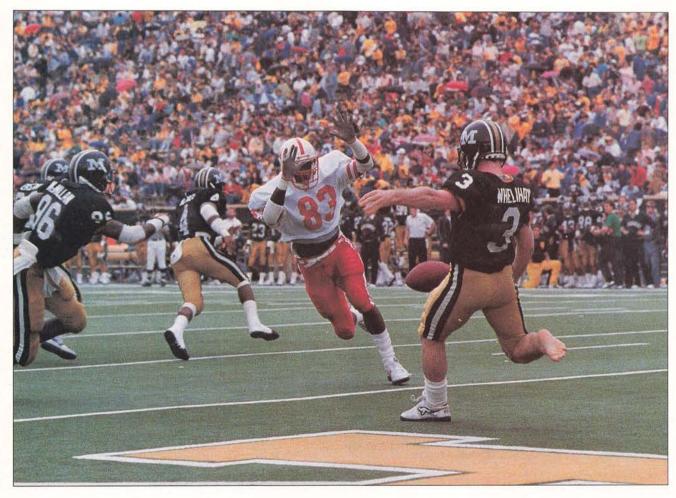
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The Artful Dodger

SPEEDY MIKE CROEL HAS GREAT HANDS: IDEAL FOR BLOCKING PUNTS AND CREATING ART.

By Paul Hammel



t's the stuff from which legends are born...

In the third quarter of a high school football game, the offensive team, facing a third-and-long situation deep in their own territory and trailing 7-0, tries a quick-kick. A tall, lanky defensive end, however, knifes through to block it.

Fourth down. The offensive team tries again after recovering the block, falling into punt formation. But wait, here comes that defensive end again, only

Croel barely misses against Mizzou in '87.

this time he blocks it through the end zone for a safety. Geez, where did this guy come from?

It's free-kick time and the kick sails deep down the field. Uh oh, here we go again — it's him. First he blocks kicks; now he runs them back.

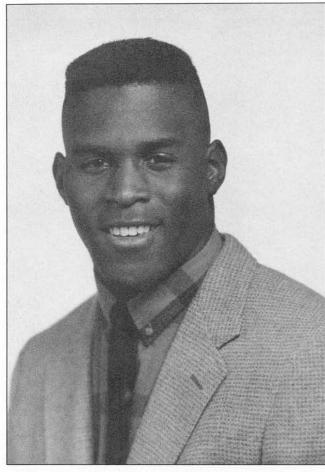
Returning the kickoff 86 yards, he's got a touchdown. Three plays and the score's gone from 7-0 to 16-0. Tune up the Fat Lady. . .

Call him the artful dodger, for this kick-crunching defender is also a commercial art major who can make teammates laugh through his caricatures and make his dreams come to life in abstract paintings.

His name is Mike Croel, and although he's lettered his first two seasons and played an integral role in Nebraska's "nickel" pass defense last year, the name may not be that familiar. Stay tuned, because with the graduation of Nebraska's nickel defense and played about 90 percent of the Orange Bowl loss to Miami.

He blocked a team-leading two punts in 1988, and both led to touchdowns. Cartier Walker scooped up Croel's first block and ran 34 yards for a TD against Nevada-Las Vegas. Against Missouri, Croel blocked a fourth-quarter punt that set up an insurance field goal in the

In a room with 50 strangers, Croel can leave with 50 friends.



Broderick Thomas, it appears Croel is ready to duplicate many of the Sandman's backfield-busting feats and ready to create some college defensive legends like the one described above during his career at Lincoln-Sudbury High School, located in a suburb of Boston.

"Mike will be a great outside linebacker," said Nebraska defensive end coach Tony Samuel. "He might be already."

Last year as a true sophomore, the 6-foot-3, 220-pound Croel alternated with senior-to-be Jeff Mills at right side linebacker. He was the right side end in

Cornhuskers' difficult 26-18 win.

Croel's college reputation started in '87 when he blocked a Utah State punt in his first game as a freshman.

A two-time Massachusetts high school sprint champion, Croel is Nebraska's fastest outside linebacker with an electronically timed 40-yard dash of 4.62 seconds.

"You can't run away from him because he'll catch you," said his high school coach, Tom Lopez, "and you can't run to him because he's too quick."

Croel has the moves of a wide receiver because he starred at the posi-

tion in high school, averaging 29 yards a catch his senior year.

He began his high school days in Los Altos, Calif., as a running back. When his family moved to the Boston area, he remained in the backfield until the middle of his junior year, when Lopez transferred him outside. "It wasn't that he wasn't a good running back, but people had to cover him out there," said Lopez.

With Croel and Nebraska teammate Joe Sims teaming at end, Lincoln-Sudbury won two straight state titles and 25 games in a row.

Croel didn't start playing defense full time until his senior year. He was first tried on defense as a junior during passing downs.

Said Croel, "Coach just said to go in there for a couple of plays, just rush and don't worry about anything. Every time I went in I always tackled the quarterback or running back for a loss. They just kept putting me in..."

Lopez called Croel the type of athlete that comes around only once every 25 years. "He could play anywhere. He could be a defensive tackle, he could be a great safety..."

But it appeared pass catching was in his future, even after being named defensive MVP of the Massachusetts Shrine Bowl game after his senior year. Nebraska, as well as Syracuse and Penn State, recruited Croel as a wingback or split end.

Nebraska won the recruiting war because of its nice campus, said Croel, and its academic program. Croel has a reading disability — dyslexia — and NU has an extensive academic program to help students cope with such obstacles.

Cornhusker coaches told Croel they'd try him on both sides of the ball. Croel's first side was defense, and that's where he stayed.

Croel said he was flexible. "I think the defensive positions are a lot better. Offense runs too much in drills and in practice, and they don't get the ball thrown to them that much.

"I like getting to hit somebody and getting some quarterback sacks. I like where I'm at now."

Samuel likes where he's at, too. And despite this being his first year as a starter, Samuel sees great things ahead for Croel. "It's not like Jeff Mills, who's

GUILTY FOR ALL THE RIGHT REASONS

ou want proof? Here's proof: yet another rule-defying college athlete who disregards authority. And the guy's so blatant.

"I don't pay attention to the rules. I follow how I feel," Mike Croel says. "I only do good work when I feel good, when I'm having fun.

"All those rules — that's the only bad thing about art class."

With evidence like that, plus Croel's colorful acrylic painting and ink drawing shown here, college football should hope it had more rule breakers like Nebraska's promising young linebacker whose only indictments are excessive imagination and creativity in his academic pursuits.

His punishment?

"It probably cost me an A on my atmospheric perspective painting," Croel says of his tryanything artistic philosophy.

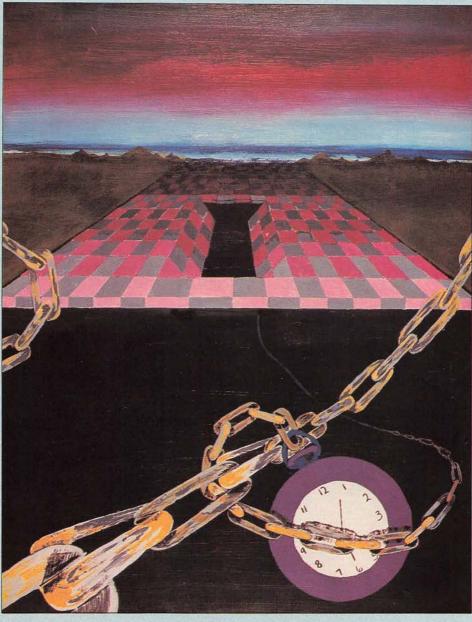
Still, Croel is proud of his creations and serious about perfecting his craft by learning from masters. "I still need to learn skills that

aren't top-notch right now," he says. "I'd like to see how really good artists do it. Pick their brains. Learn the subtleties. Playing football will only last so long, but art is a lifetime career."

And a summertime splurge.

Croel spent part of this past summer at home in Boston and part in California, spending more than a little time on surf boards. Sometimes he surfed, and sometimes he just contemplated the fiberglass slab under his feet, yet another medium of artistic expression.

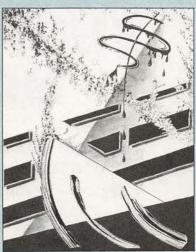
"I've always been fascinated by



the idea of putting air-brush paintings on surf boards. Because of my roots in California, I go back occasionally and usually try to talk with shop owners on the beach about painting surf boards for them. Now that's something I feel good about, something that's fun to do."

College athletes like Croel take some of the pain out of crimewave headlines as they ride ocean waves and spend their off-field time challenging rules, not for the sake of destruction, but for the sake of artistic creativity.

- Mark Owens



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The Artful Dodger

started as an outside linebacker and knows the feeling of going in there and getting into the tempo — Mike's going to have to learn that. But as far as playing in front of a big crowd, playing in front of a hostile crowd, getting rid of the anxieties and all that, he's been there before. He'll be fine."

And he'll also be bigger. Croel has added about 20 pounds of bulk through Nebraska's weight-training program. He's deceptively strong, said Samuel, and more explosive.

Croel said he wasn't a weight trainer in high school. "When I went home last summer they were surprised to see me three days in a row (at the weight room). 'I guess you're serious about this,' my friends said."

It may be one of few things Croel is serious about. He's an easy-going 19-year-old and a natural practical joker. Croel and teammate Kenny Walker, a fellow defensive front-liner, became the team portrait artists this spring, drawing caricatures of players for locker room display.

No one escapes the playful wrath of Croel and Walker. Features and personalities are exaggerated by the footballplaying Currier and Ives. The drawings are then pinned to the locker room bulletin board to let the victim identify himself. Eric Anderson, a cornerback from Omaha, is a favorite target.

"Everybody laughs at their own picture when it gets up there because it's funny," said Croel. He and Walker have thought about asking if the drawings could be put in the press guide, "but most of what we do are inside jokes. People probably wouldn't catch on," he said.

Even Coach Samuel found a practical joke portrait of himself, scribbled on a grease board before a session with the outside linebackers. It came complete with Samuel's green eyes and peaked hairline.

"He's a free spirit, and a darn good artist," said Samuel of Croel. "He has his own sense of humor — he likes to kid in a different way."

Said Lopez, "He's the only kid I know who can walk into a room with 50 strangers and walk out with 50 friends. He's got such an outgoing personality that even if he didn't have football he'd be a success at something."

Croel's mother, Susanne, introduced Mike to drawing. She paints flowery trim for an interior decorator, as well as painting for pleasure.

Mike's art is, well, different. "Basically, art comes from your own personality... a sense of humor, weird dreams," he said. "If you have weird dreams you are going to end up doing a lot of abstract art. My dreams are kind of freaky."

Croel sees a landscape, but draws it in his own abstract style. His favorite painting, produced for a class this year, portrays a checkerboard suspended in space and a pocket watch, with its chain sweeping into the background.

"I've got a strange personality and this kind of brings it out. The stuff I do is always strange compared to stuff other people do," he said.

Football, he insists, has nothing to do with his art. There are two distinct sides of Mike Croel that do not meet.

"You couldn't mix football and art unless you could paint your body and your shoulder pads and run into a canvas. That's about it," he said.

He hopes to become a commercial artist, producing logos and designs for companies. Croel and Walker are also considering a full-sized mural of the football team, just to see if their teammates can recognize themselves.

For now, however, art has taken a backseat to demands of football and the classroom. It takes a lot of time and concentration to create a work of art, said Croel.

The same could be said of college football players, but Samuel said Croel is ready to emerge in his third season at Nebraska.

"Last year as a true sophomore he played quite a bit," Samuel said. "Every year you'll see a guy get better and better, and the better they get with techniques and the more experience they get, you'll start to see them making more and more plays — it was the same with Broderick."

The Sandman left his impression on the Nebraska program. Now it's time for an artful dodger from Massachusetts named Mike Croel to step up and make his mark in college — like he did on three memorable plays in high school.

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All That Glitters Is Not Always A Gold-Chipper

here has been nothing more baffling in this summer's crop of college football yearbooks than *Don Heinrich's* consensus ranking of the Top 20 recruiting schools in the 1980s, a list which Nebraska turned into a farce.

Why compile annual rankings of the best recruiting hauls if signing day success has limited influence on Saturday success? Here's how *Heinrich's* decadelong review worked — or didn't work in Nebraska's case. Writer Gary Rausch used the Top 20 lists of *Blue Chip* from 1980-84, Joe Terranova (1985-86) and *Don Heinrich's* (1987-89) to build a consensus 1980s Top 20, using the usual formula: 20 points for first place, decreasing to one point for No. 20. Very scientific.

But very odd. Nebraska was No. 18 on that recruiting list. Ugh. But read 'em and weep sports fans, the Big Red is the winningest college team this decade. That's where it counts. Nebraska has won more games (93) lost fewer (18) and produced a better best winning percentage (.837) than anybody.

And get this, Miami (Fla.) has the second-best record in the 1980s (88-19-0, .822) and two national titles to its credit, yet the Hurricanes were not even in the consensus Top 20.

The article was interesting enough—being that recruiting is inherently important, the lifeblood of any college program—but the story could have been even more interesting if this disparity between recruiting success and won-lost record had been addressed.

For example, much was written about the wonders of Notre Dame recruiting, how the Irish were by far the best recruiters of the '80s, how the Golden Dome hypnotized recruits, how Lou Holtz is a magnet and blue-chippers are steel shavings. But give Rausch credit for noting Notre Dame's absence from the national limelight earlier this decade despite its heralded recruits (four Irish recruiting classes were rated No. 1 in the '80s). But the South Bend machine does not even rank in the Top 20 this decade in winning percentage.

The article mentions Miami in one paragraph and Nebraska not at all. Which is odd because there is no greater disparity between recruiting rank and won-lost record than those schools, at least in a positive sense. On top of that, the third-winningest school of the 1980s (Georgia at .794) was given a modest No. 13 rank in *Heinrich's* recruiting list. Three high-production powerhouses — three pedestrian recruiting report cards. Somebody has flunked out here, and it would not appear to be Nebraska, Miami and Georgia.

This is not to say that every recruiting newsletter or every media ranking of players borders on fiction. It's just that all should be digested with grains of salt — bucketloads of salt. In the *Heinrich's* case, it just seems strange to tout teams that signed players who were supposed to be good instead of emphasizing teams that signed athletes who actually played well. Isn't that what coaches, bowl scouts and TV executives care about — whether or not you produce as opposed to whether or not your muscles look pretty.

In retrospect, the cottage industry that has sprung up in response to fan interest in recruiting is only about 10-15 years old. Media coverage on recruiting will become more sophisticated. In the meantime, the relationship between won-lost records and the awards won by signees certainly hints that all that glitters on signing day might well be fool's gold.

What follows is the *Heinrich's* consensus recruiting Top 20 for the '80s along with each team's won-lost record

for the same period.

- 1. Notre Dame: 165 points In the *Heinrich's* poll the Irish were in each year's recruiting Top 20 and were No. 1 four times. Only Notre Dame and Michigan were ranked every year. With its 12-0 effort last season, Notre Dame's record this decade (63-37-2, .627) is solid but ironically not among the nation's Top 20.
- 2. UCLA: 143 points The Bruins have consistently signed big-name players throughout Coach Terry Donahue's tenure. Despite having never won the recruiting national championship in the '80s, the UCLA won-lost record reflects that consisent success: 79-23-5 with a .741 winning percentage, good for 10th.
- 3. Michigan: 143 points The Wolverine class of 1986 was considered the nation's best, which adds credence to this year's high expectations in Ann Arbor. Overall in the '80s, Michigan's posted a top-notch record of 80-27-2 (.743), good for No. 8 nationally in that category. However, its consistency (making the recruiting Top 20 every year), did not keep Michigan from inconsistency on the field, stumbling to 6-6 in 1984.
- **4. Southern Cal:** 117 points The Trojans have had three head coaches this decade, which helps explain why its recruiting success has not created a won-lost record of equal stature: 69-34-2 (.667), 19th.
- **5. Texas:** 112 points It's the same formula for the Longhorns. Highly touted recruits plus three head coaches equals erratic results: 68-36-2 (.651) including two losing seasons. Texas was not in the winning-percentage Top 20.
- **6. Oklahoma:** 105 points Up to this point, no school has a won-lost record equal to or better than its recruiting rank. OU breaks the trend. Under Barry Switzer, the Sooners were

84-22-2 (.787) fifth-best record in the 1980s.

- 7. Penn State: 100 points Despite wobbles in 1984 (6-5) and 1988 (5-6) PSU under venerable Joe Paterno has produced on the field about as well as it has on the recruiting trail. State's decade record is 81-25-1 (.762), good for sixth.
- **8. Pitt:** 99 points The Panthers were powerhouses in the early '80s but have slipped dramatically of late. Still buoyed by that early success, the Pitt record is 66-33-4 (.660), holding down the final spot in that Top 20.
- 9. Texas A&M: 83 points Next to Notre Dame, A&M is probably the best example of a recruiting whiz that's fizzed out on the field: 63-40-1 (.610) and nowhere near the Top 20.
- 10. Alabama: 81 points It's admirable that the Crimson Tide has survived three coaching changes and the rugged Southeastern Conference to post a correspondingly stout record 75-31-2 (.704), ranking them 13th, tied with Arkansas.
- 11. Ohio State: 78 points Steady, except for last year's 4-6-1 crash and burn. The Buckeyes are No. 15 in wonlost rankings this decade at 74-21-2 (.701).
- 12. Auburn: 78 points After losing seasons in 1980-81, the Tigers of Coach Pat Dye have been outstanding, going 76-29-2 (.719) this decade, ranking them 11th, tied with Washington.
- 13. Georgia: 76 points Bulldog recruiting has been solid but not spectacular in the 1980s, but the result has been splendid overachievement on the field: 83-20-4 (.794), third nationally.
- 14. Clemson: 75 points Coach Danny Ford's Tiger team is another of the recruiting Top 20 exceptions to the rule he wins better than he recruits, 77-23-4 (.759) and No. 7 in won-lost percentage.
- 15. Florida State: 63 points The Seminoles only made the recruiting Top 20 six times in the '80s but twice (1985 and 1989) took top honors. Coach Bobby Bowden's record this decade is 78-26-3 (.752), No. 9 nationally.
- 16. Florida: 62 points Struggling the past three seasons, the Gators still

KEY RECRUITING DATES FOR 1989-90

OFFICIAL VISITS: Prospects can make official visits beginning with the first day of the prospect's senior year of high school. They are allowed five official visits, but no more than one to any one institution. Such visits may occur at any time during the prospect's senior year with two exceptions: (1) the period 48 hours prior to 8 a.m. on national signing day, and (2) from 12:01 a.m. on the day of registration at the annual American Football Coaches Association convention until 12:01 a.m. on the day after completion of the convention, usually held in early January. These are referred to as dead periods.

FALL EVALUATION PERIOD: From Nov. 1-30 (1989), college coaches may leave campus to evaluate prospects in game situations, but they are not permitted to make off-campus contacts with prospects.

IN-PERSON, OFF-CAMPUS CONTACTS: From Dec. 1 (1989) until Feb. 17 (1990), college coaches can see prospects face-to-face off campus, except for the above-mentioned dead periods.

JUCO SIGNEES: Mid-year Junior college transfers may be signed to national letters of intent between Dec. 13 (1989) and Jan. 15 (1990).

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SIGNING DAY: Prep seniors can sign a letter from Feb. 14 until April 1 (1990).

SPRING EVALUATION PERIOD: From May 1-31 (1990), college coaches may leave campus to observe prospects but cannot make in-person contact.

This report was compiled with assistance from the legislative services department of the NCAA.

have a 69-33-3 (.671) record the past nine years, good for 18th.

- 17. Washington: 60 points Don James' program is a steady winner, having made the recruiting Top 20 seven times and having posted a solid record of 76-29-2 (.719). That's the 11th-best record this decade.
- 18. Nebraska: 53 points The Huskers have made the recruiting Top 20 just six times, their highest finish coming in 1985 at No. 2 in the Terranova-sponsored poll. But, hey, recruiting rankings are only opinions, and opinions are like noses: everybody's got one. The Nebraska won-lost record, however, is not opinion. It's a fact: 93-18-0 (.837), the best this decade.
- 19. North Carolina: 42 points The Tarheels are mostly riding the coattails of early '80s success when they made the recruiting Top 20 from 1980-83. They haven't signed a Top 20 class since. Carolina has more recently faltered and is far out of the Top 20 in winning percentage (.587).

20. LSU: 38 points — Holding fairly close to recruiting form, the Tigers are 66-34-2 (.652) this decade, only two

spots outside the won-lost Top 20.

Unranked. Miami (Fla.) — But the Hurricanes are No. 2 where it counts — on the field at 88-19-0 (.822).

Unranked. Brigham Young — The Cougars were not even mentioned in the "Others" category, but their won-lost mark is outstanding: 92-24-0 (.793), No. 4, and only a hair behind Georgia.

Unranked. Arkansas — The Razorbacks are one of only a few teams that have had a winning record every season in the 1980s. At No. 13 in won-lost percentage (.704, 75-31-2), Arkansas must be doing something right each spring.

Unranked. Arizona State — The Sun Devils were only three spots outside the recruiting Top 20. Their won-lost record is inside that Top 20: 68-32-3 (.675) at No. 16.

Unranked. Iowa — Only a disasterous 1980 season (4-7) in Coach Hayden Fry's second season keeps the Hawkeye record (72-34-4 and .673) from being even higher, currently 17th.

And on that final note, pass the salt tablets, please. ■

23

\$ANDER\$

BARRY SANDERS WAS AN IMPACT PLAYER, AND HOW! COLLEGE FOOTBALL AND THE NFL WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.

By Paul Hammel

hen Barry Sanders made his break for professional football, future Oklahoma State opponents breathed a deep sigh of relief.

No longer would defenders have to pursue the 5-foot-8 human pumpkin seed of a running back who broke or tied 24 NCAA records in his three-year career with the Cowboys, rushing for 39 touchdowns and 2,628 yards in 1988.

Devastating? Hey, name the last time a running back from a not-so-highly regarded inland college beat out two glamour-boy quar-

terbacks from the West Coast for the Heisman Trophy.

We're talking impact when we talk of Barry Sanders, sort of like the impression the 190-pounder made on the forearms and shoulder pads of defensive pursuers, when they could get close enough.

And it appears Sanders, in his dash for an expected lucrative NFL rookie contract, is making an impact again.

While maybe not opening a floodgate for other college football players to turn pro before they graduate, the defection of Sanders to the NFL — the first "pure junior" to do so — is going to shake up things like a San Andreas earthquake.

"It's a precedent we don't particularly like to see," said Nebraska coach Tom



Mild-mannered Sanders got tough with the NFL.

Osborne. "We've had a good working relationship with the professional teams. As opposed to baseball and basketball, the NFL has seemed to make special recognition of the fact that the game of football is a little more development — most players are not ready to play until they've had four or five years of college.

"I'd say the relationship has eroded a little bit." Osborne said.

And that's one of the kinder comments.

Pitt coach Mike Gottfried, still sting-

ing from losing fourth-year junior running back Craig Heyward to the pros last year, declared the NFL had established an "open-door policy" in allowing Sanders to join last April's draft.

"It sends the wrong message to the wrong people," Gottfried told the *Dallas Morning News*. "We are not getting to be like the NBA, we're already there."

Arkansas' Ken Hatfield joined the chorus of boos, saying that colleges provide the NFL the best minor league it could have. He called for reimbursement to colleges every time an underclassman skips class for

cash.

Officially, the NFL says it had no choice. It granted Sanders a special exemption because: 1) Oklahoma State was on probation; 2) both OSU coach Pat Jones and OSU athletic director Myron Roderick had blessed the jump and 3) Sanders had hired an agent, thus making him ineligible for his senior year anyway.

"It's only a precedent if there's another case just like it," said NFL spokesman Joe Browne.

Well sort of.

Former Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer says the precedent had already been set by the time Georgia's goliath Herschel Walker dumped the 'Dawgs in 1983. Walker asked the NFL to let him

in, not through the draft, but to a group of teams he selected.

The NFL said no, and Walker made an end run for the USFL, where he stayed until the league called a permanent timeout.

"It's going to affect all coaches," said Switzer. "There will always be players, every so often, who will be a recognized talent who will be a high draft choice and who will go early."

Volney Meece, executive director of the Football Writers Association of America, said most coaches he's interviewed feel players have always had the right to jump to the NFL — if they want to go to court and challenge the rules governing the draft. "If he goes to court, he wins," said Meece.

Sånders had threatened to go to court to gain admission to the draft but the NFL opened the door without it, fueling speculation that the NFL wanted to avoid a court fight, and probably an open-the-floodgates court loss.

Said Herschel Nissenson, Associated Press' national college football editor, "You can't tell a college physics major he can't quit college after two years to take a job. What's the difference? How can you deny a kid a living?"

But everyone agrees the Sanders case will not start an avalanche of talent trooping out of college.

"Offensive and defensive linemen are not old or mature enough to play in the NFL, but there will always be some Barry Sanders types," said Switzer. "I'd hate to lose Mike Gaddis (Big Eight Newcomer of the Year as a freshman and the reason the Sooners are considering more I-formation this year) two years from now — there's nothing we can do about it — but he's got to prove himself first."

Those are key words, according to Nebraska athletic director Bob Devaney and others. Sanders had accomplished just about everything he could at Oklahoma State and was facing a year with no television exposure and no returning starters in the offensive line.

"I don't see any sense in taking a chance at getting hurt," said Devaney. "If he gets hurt now, at least he'll get paid for it." Said Buck Turnbull, college football writer for the *Des Moines Register*, "You can hardly blame the guy for taking the money."

Turnbull recalled the case of Iowa (now Detroit Lion) quarterback Chuck Long. He considered passing up his senior year, but didn't in hopes of leading the Hawkeyes to the Rose Bowl.

Long took out a \$1 million insurance policy on his health to ensure he made the right decision.

Some coaches have talked about ending redshirt years for promising players (because they might not be around for four years), but Devaney said the biggest problem he sees is the junior player — after a big year — jumping to the NFL when he's really not ready.

Heyward was in that category. "He had something to prove yet," said Devaney. "That bothers me some. That's when a coach and his staff need to do some counseling and point out that isn't the right thing.

"I would sight pro football very badly if they took every junior — this is a very special situation."

Tex Schramm, former president of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys, said he didn't see Sanders as having special, extenuating circumstances. "I don't think probation is an extenuating circumstance," Schramm told the *Washington Post*. "This is the first case of a three-year player with no extenuating circumstances being allowed to turn pro. I'm very sorry to see the restrictions deteriorate to the point that they are not even effective."

Added Oklahoma State's Jones, "The only extenuating circumstance factor with him being able to play in the NFL is the Constitution of the United States of America." The NFL had not refused any player's petition to join the draft previously, said Jones, and this was not the time to start.

Still, Osborne said he doesn't see an

avalanche coming. The NFL, looking at a free minor-league system, doesn't want to jeopardize that relationship.

The pro draft is a billion dollar business. Teams are built on third-, fourth-, fifth- and sixth-round draft choices, the sort that are discovered in college film rooms and practice fields — not necessarily in the newspaper headlines or ESPN highlights.

In the wake of the Heyward case, Osborne said he talked to some pro teams, suggesting that even though a player has obtained an agent (thus ruining his college eligibility), it doesn't mean he has to be drafted.

Osborne has had a good relationship with the NFL, but times may be changing. "We've got to think long and hard about our relationship with these teams that are going to take underclassmen," said Osborne. "We've got to decide whether we'll work with them or not."





"We're not getting to be like the NBA," says Gottfried (above). "We're already there." Hardly in Sanders' class, Heyward (left) sidestepped his last year at Pitt.

Former Nebraska quarterback Steve Taylor has survived the first two rounds of cuts and is into the exhibition season with the Canadian Football League's Edmonton Eskimos.

The remainder of former Cornhuskers who were drafted or signed have already attended mini camps and began full-speed workouts in mid-July. Nebraska's top draft pick, Broderick Thomas, who was the sixth pick in the draft has yet to sign with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers but negotiations are continuing.

Former Cornhuskers already in the pros are also getting ready for the 1989 season. I-back Roger Craig, the MVP of the NFC last year for the Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers and Tom Rathman, a fullback with the team, have both signed new contracts and are looking forward to defending their NFL championship.

The two former NU running backs were in Lincoln, along with some 400 others, to attend the funeral of former Cornhusker running backs coach Mike Corgan.

Corgan, 70, died of natural causes in late May. He was one of the first assistant coaches to serve under (now) athletic director Bob Devaney.

Corgan and Devaney were teammates on a softball team in Saginaw, Mich., and the two met a few times when coaching rival high schools.

Devaney hired Corgan when he was given the head coaching post at Wyoming and had Corgan join him at Nebraska.

Corgan was responsible for helping develop some of the top backs in Nebraska history including Rathman and Craig, I.M. Hipp, Craig Johnson, Rick Berns, Jarvis Redwine, Joe Orduna, Jeff Kinney and dozens more.

"Mike came up with this idea of 'rule blocking,' back when we were both coaching high school, and he developed it and brought it here," Devaney said.

"It was a revolution in blocking schemes for backs in football, and it is used by almost everyone from the pros on down

"He was a hard-nosed coach and a good friend and he had a great impact on Nebraska football," Devaney said.

Corgan is survived by his wife Virginia and three daughters.

Former Cornhusker all-conference defensive tackle Tim Rother, a sixthround pick of the Los Angeles Raiders in 1988 who missed last season with injuries, is switching to the offensive line this summer. Ironically, Rother made the switch from offense to defense while at Nebraska.

NU junior safety Reggie Cooper is a candidate for the Jim Thorpe Award given to the top defensive back in the country in college football. Cooper, a native of Slidell, La., is the top returning tackler for the Cornhuskers this year. He had 58 tackles last season and is the only returning starter in the defen-



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3728 N. 90th 2529 S. 120th Phone 571-9900 Phone 895-9433 Phone 330-1616 sive backfield this year for NU. There are 20 nominees for the award, which will be presented on Nov. 28.

Mark Blazek, an Academic All-American and former defensive back for NU, was named the top scholar-athlete along with NU volleyball player Lori Endicott, as awarded by the Big Eight Conference. Blazek, who won the Toyota leadership grant for his success in academics last year, is planning on law school in the near future.

Nebraska may have gotten a good look at one of the top high school quarterback recruits in the country when Kyle Gundy of Midwest City, Okla., attended the Big Red Football school in June. More than 350 high school football players attended the highly regarded camp run by the NU coaching staff.

Speaking of recruiting, one source close to the Nebraska program said that recruiting preparation work had been better than ever this spring.

Tom Osborne said he was pleased

that the Cornhuskers posted their best graduation rate in recent years when it was learned that 69 percent of the class of 1984 had graduated. Previously, 66 percent graduated within five years from the class of 1983 and 69 percent from

"I hate to see him (Switzer) quit. We shared some great moments in college football."

the class of 1982. "We want to strive to improve that figure," Osborne said.

—Tom Osborne

Osborne and Devaney both expressed their feelings about the resignation of former Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer, an archrival of Osborne's on the field

"I hate to see him quit," Osborne

said. "We shared some great moments in college football." Devaney said he and Switzer were good friends and he was upset to see him resign after 16 years of coaching the Sooners.

The Nebraska football team lost nine victories over the summer when NU sports information associate Tom Simons discovered that eight victories in the early 1900s and late 1890s were over Lincoln High School and one was over Lincoln Medics. Newspaper accounts described the games as tryouts or practices. The Cornhuskers got one win back because an 1898 loss (24-0) to William Jewell was actually a typographical error and was a 38-0 NU win. Entering its 100th season of football, Nebraska is 625-279-39 with a winning percentage of .683 that is good for sixth in the nation behind Michigan, Notre Dame, Texas, Alabama and Penn State. One consolation — Osborne is now the winningest active coach in the country since he only trailed Switzer.

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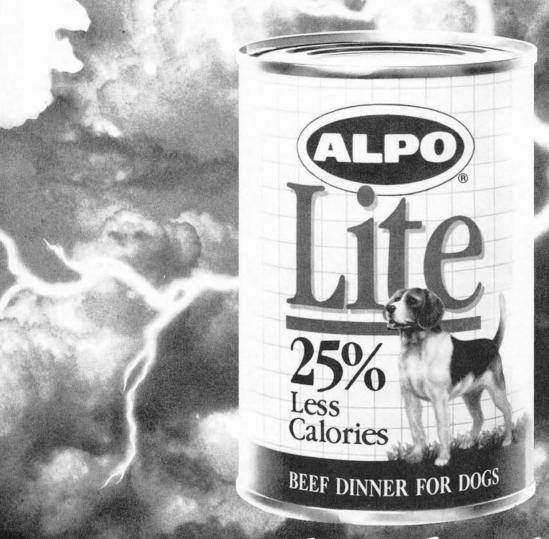


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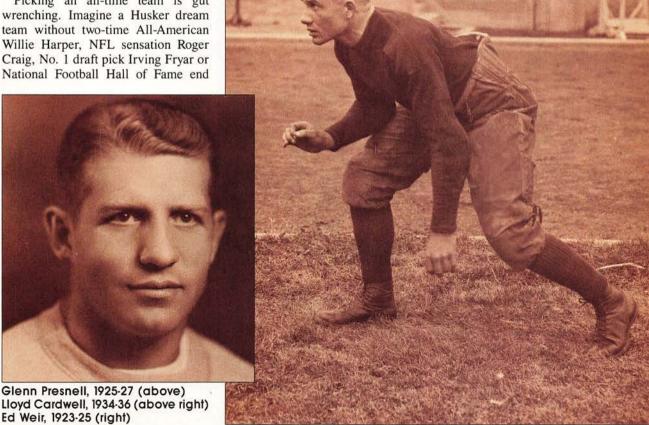
Legends, Everyone

The ultimate Top 20: NU's greatest players of all time

Tho has been Nebraska's greatest football player of alltime? Johnny Rodgers? Ed Weir? Mike Rozier? The "Wild Hoss," Lloyd Cardwell?

Posing such a question will produce a discussion, or argument, without end. There is no objective way to answer it because there is no single answer.

Picking an all-time team is gut team without two-time All-American Willie Harper, NFL sensation Roger Craig, No. 1 draft pick Irving Fryar or



ALL-TIME GREATS

Clarence Swanson. Nebraska has more All-Americans who don't make its alltime team than many schools have had in their entire football histories.

A strong case could be made for numerous former Cornhuskers. Still, as Nebraska enters its 100th football season, *Huskers Illustrated* has put together an informal Top 10 of all-time greats, both pre-1950 and post-1950.

The lists, compiled with the help of Don Bryant and several sports writers familiar with Nebraska football and its history, represent some of the best who have been Cornhuskers since 1890.

Bryant, an assistant athletic director and sports information director, is probably the single-best authority on Nebraska football history, having been the Cornhuskers' sports information director for 27 years. Prior to that, "Fox," a Nebraska alum, covered Nebraska football as sports editor of *The Lincoln Star* for nine years.

Among the others consulted to compile the lists were Virgil Parker, former sports editor of the *Journal* and *Star* newspapers; Lee Barfknecht, who covers Nebraska football for the *Omaha World Herald*; Ken Hambleton, who handles the same responsibility for the *Journal* and *Star*; and Mike Babcock, former Cornhusker beat writer and now a columnist for the *Journal* and *Star*.

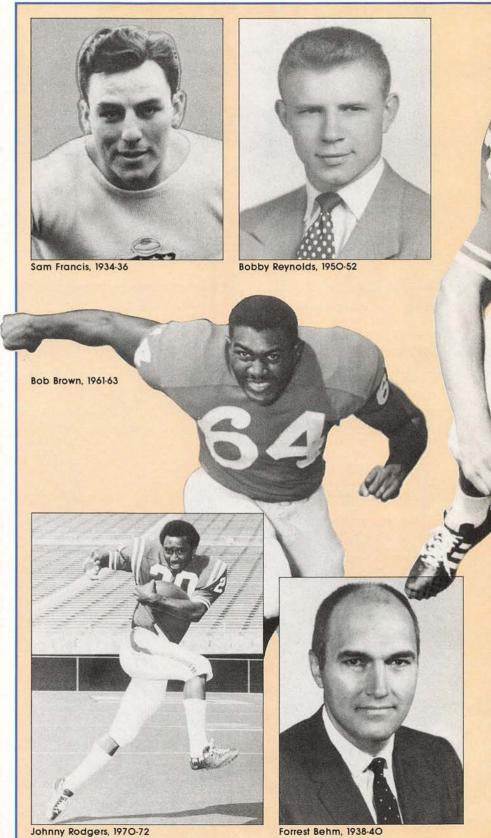
The players are listed alphabetically, and the late Bobby Reynolds has been placed, somewhat arbitrarily, on the pre-1950 list, even though his Cornhusker career extended from 1950 to 1952.

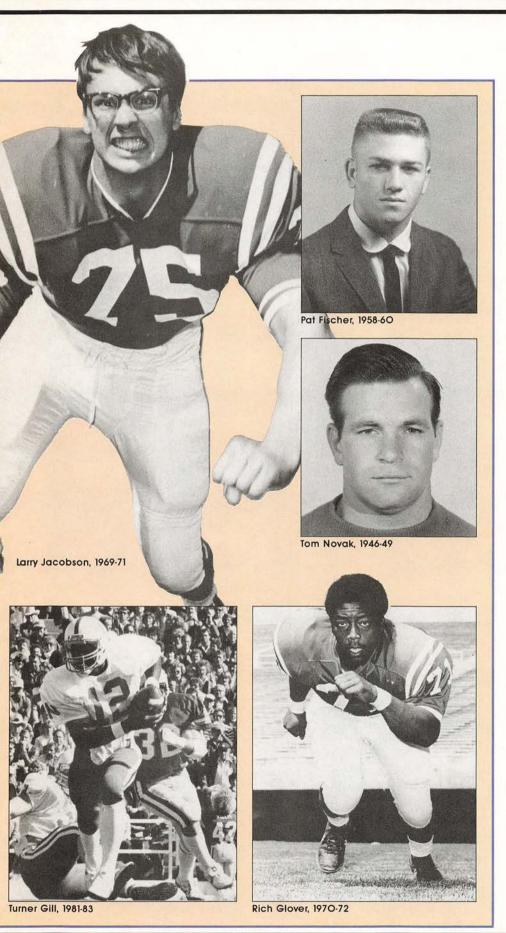
If we've omitted someone you think should have been included, don't hesitate to write and let us know. That's the fun of such lists.

PRE-1950

Forrest Behm, tackle, 1938-40. Behm, who's from Lincoln, was a key player on the famed Rose Bowl team. He's one of 11 Nebraska players and coaches to be inducted into the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame.

Behm, who nearly lost a leg when he was 5 years old because of injuries suffered in a fire, only played high school football his senior year, yet he went on to earn three varsity letters at Nebraska and All-America honors in





1940, the Rose Bowl season.

Lloyd Cardwell, back, 1934-36. The "Wild Hoss" from Seward didn't receive as much national recognition as he might have had he not played in the same backfield with Sam Francis. But he's considered one of the toughest players ever to represent Nebraska.

Cardwell scored a touchdown the first time he carried the ball as a sophomore in a 50-0 victory against Wyoming, and he scored a touchdown on his final carry as a Cornhusker in a 32-14 victory against Oregon State. He was a first-round draft pick of the NFL Detroit Lions in 1937.

Guy Chamberlin, end, 1914-15. "The Champ" played end and halfback on the last two Nebraska teams coached by E.O. "Jumbo" Stiehm. The "Stiehm Rollers" were undefeated and untied in 1915, and only a 0-0 tie with South Dakota spoiled what would have been a perfect record in 1914.

Chamberlin, who was from the Blue Springs-Beatrice area, didn't play in a losing football game "from prep school to the Cornhuskers and through his first five seasons as a professional," according to author John McCallum in his book *Big Eight Football*.

Sam Francis, fullback, 1934-36. After Nebraska lost to Pittsburgh 19-6 in 1936, a wire service reporter wrote: "Francis stood out like a stilt-walker at a midgets' convention." Francis finished second to Yale's Larry Kelley in Heisman Trophy balloting dominated by eastern writers in 1936.

He also competed in the shot put at the 1936 Olympic Games and was a first-round draft pick of the Philadelphia Eagles. D.X. Bible's teams were 19-7-1 during Francis' three seasons.

Vic Halligan, tackle, 1912-14. Halligan is generally regarded as Nebraska's first All-American, earning that recognition as a third-team selection by the legendary Walter Camp all three years he played. Then, the year after he graduated, Halligan was named an All-American again by Camp, though there is some confusion as to whether he was first- or second-team.

In any case, Halligan was a key performer for the famed "Stiehm Rollers" of Coach Jumbo Stiehm. The teams on which Halligan played won 22 of 24

ALL-TIME GREATS

games, with one loss and a tie, and posted 11 shutouts. He was team captain his senior year.

Tom Novak, center, 1946-49. "Train Wreck" was one of the few bright spots on Cornhusker teams in the late 1940s. He played under three coaches, none of whom could produce a winning season while Novak was at Nebraska. But it wasn't for lack of effort on Novak's part.

Norris Anderson, former sports editor of the *Lincoln Star*, wrote: "Tom gave body, soul and unquenchable spirit. Victory or defeat, there was Novak, ever fierce, ever determined, savagely throwing that sturdy 205-pound body into play after play."

Novak was a four-time all-conference pick. His jersey, No. 60, was the first ever to be retired at Nebraska.

Glenn Presnell, back, 1925-27. Presnell was an outstanding football player both at Nebraska and professionally, as a runner, passer and kicker. In 1927, he rushed for 1,446 yards in eight games, a total which ranks fourth on Nebraska's single-season list, behind two campaigns by Mike Rozier and one by Ken Clark.

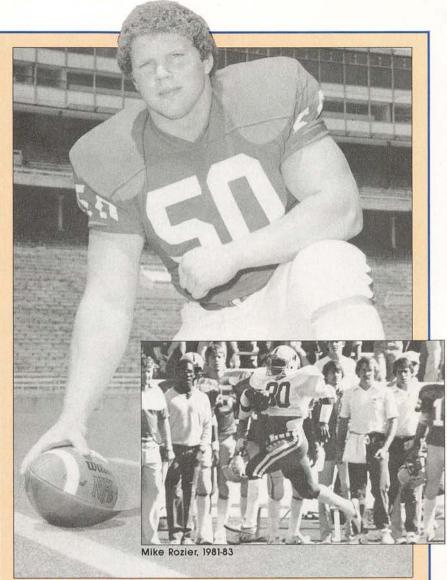
Lawrence Perry, a noted sports writer during Presnell's era, once called Presnell as good a college running back as he had ever seen. And that included Red Grange, the Galloping Ghost. Said Perry: "Some teams stopped Grange cold, but no one stopped Presnell."

Bobby Reynolds, halfback, 1950-52. As a sophomore, Reynolds had one of the greatest seasons in Cornhusker history. He rushed for what was, at the time, a conference-record 1,342 yards, a total that still ranks fourth on Nebraska's modern list. He scored 157 points, also a record at the time, and at least one touchdown in every game.

Reynolds was a consensus All-American as a sophomore. Injuries plagued him as a junior and senior, and he could never come close to duplicating that remarkable sophomore season.

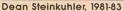
George Sauer, fullback, 1931-33. Sauer was described by a newspaper columnist as "the premier ball carrier in the nation" after scoring both touchdowns in the West's 12-0 victory in the East-West Shrine game.

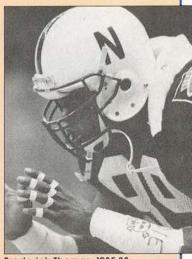
Sauer, who came from Lincoln, became a starter at Nebraska in the second



Dave Rimington, 1979-82







Broderick Thomas, 1985-88

game of his sophomore year. He was a consensus All-American his senior season, as the Cornhuskers of head coach D.X. Bible went 8-1 and were ranked second in the nation.

Ed Weir, tackle, 1923-25. Weir, who's from Superior, is considered the first Cornhusker ever to make Walter Camp's prestigious All-America first-team. He was named to it in 1924. The next season, Grantland Rice, Camp's successor, named Weir to his first All-America team.

Weir is a member of the National Football Hall of Fame, the first Husker player to reach the Hall, having been inducted in 1951. After playing against Notre Dame's legendary Four Horsemen, Weir was described by Irish coach Knute Rockne as the "greatest tackle of all time." He also contained Illinois' Galloping Ghost, Red Grange, when the Cornhuskers opened the 1925 season with a 14-0 victory. Weir was NU's first two-time All-American.

POST-1950

Bob Brown, guard, 1961-63. Brown played an important role in Nebraska's rise to national prominence under Coach Bob Devaney. The adjective "big" almost always preceded his name, as in "big Bob Brown." He stood 6-5 and weighed 260 as a Cornhusker.

Brown played linebacker on defense, shedding would-be blockers with his large forearms. He was a consensus All-America selection in 1963, after leading Nebraska to the Big Eight title and a berth in the Orange Bowl.

Pat Fischer, halfback, 1958-60. The Cornhuskers were 11-19 during Fischer's career. As a result, his accomplishments often are overlooked. He was a junior the year Nebraska snapped Oklahoma's 74-game unbeaten string in conference play, 25-21 in Lincoln. The Sooners had won 44 consecutive conference games, and they hadn't lost to Nebraska since 1942.

Fischer was one of the quarterbacks in coach Bill Jennings' ill-fated two-quarterback offense, a one-game experiment in a 20-0 loss to Texas in 1959. Fischer was small but rugged and fearless, a fact born out by a successful career in the NFL as a defensive back.

Turner Gill, quarterback, 1981-83.

Gill was, perhaps, the greatest quarterback in Nebraska history. His leadership skills and coolness under pressure were exceptional. He directed the Cornhuskers' "Scoring Explosion," 52-points-per-game offense in 1983.

He was a three-time All-Big Eight selection. Nebraska was 28-2 overall and 20-0 in conference play when Gill was the starting quarterback. His junior year, the Cornhuskers finished third in the nation; his senior year, they were second only to Miami.

Rich Glover, noseguard, 1970-72. Glover won the Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award as a senior, the first Cornhusker to receive both awards. He finished third in the Heisman Trophy balloting that season and earned recognition from the American Football Coaches as Player of the Year.

He was twice named the Most Valuable Lineman in the Orange Bowl. He was a two-time All-Big Eight selection and received both the Chamberlin and Novak trophies. His jersey, No. 79, has been retired by Nebraska.

Larry Jacobson, defensive tackle, 1969-71. "Jake" was Nebraska's first Outland Trophy winner and an academic All-American. He led the Cornhusker defensive charge that stopped Oklahoma's final desperation drive in the "Game of the Century" in 1971.

Jacobson earned an NCAA post graduate scholarship and was a first-round draft pick of the NFL New York Giants.

Dave Rimington, center, 1979-82. Rimington was the first player to win back-to-back Outland Trophies. He was a two-time consensus All-American and won the Lombardi Award as a senior, the second Cornhusker to receive the Lombardi and the Outland in the same season. He finished fifth in the Heisman Trophy balloting in 1982.

Rimington was a two-time Academic All-American as well as a member of the All-American strength team in 1982. He was named Big Eight Player of the Year by both wire services as a junior and became the fourth Cornhusker to have his jersey, No. 50, retired.

Johnny Rodgers, wingback, 1970-72. "Johnny R" was one of the most exciting college football players ever, capping his career by winning the

Heisman Trophy as a senior. He was the offensive catalyst for back-to-back national championships. He set or tied 19 Nebraska records, seven conference records and four NCAA records during his remarkable career.

Rodgers still ranks as Nebraska's career leading pass receiver, with 143 catches for 2,479 yards and 26 touchdowns. His jersey, No. 20, is retired, though his son Terry, a Cornhusker junior, now wears it.

Mike Rozier, I-back, 1981-83. Rozier was Nebraska's second Heisman Trophy winner. He was to rushing what Johnny Rodgers was to receiving and returning kicks. He rushed for 2,148 yards as a senior, the third-highest single-season total in NCAA history.

Rozier was the Cornhuskers' first NCAA rushing champion and their second NCAA scoring champion. He was a three-time all-conference selection and came up 57 yards short of 1,000 rushing yards as a sophomore. Otherwise, he would have had three consecutive seasons of 1,000 or more rushing yards. Among the many school records he holds is one for rushing yards in a game, 285. His jersey, No. 30, is retired.

Dean Steinkuhler, guard, 1981-83. The former eight-man player in high school won the Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award as a senior, to give Nebraska an unprecedented three consecutive Outlands and two consecutive Lombardis.

Steinkuhler was the anchor of the "Scoring Explosion" offensive line in 1983, when Nebraska led the nation in rushing and scoring. His hometown of Burr, Neb., with a population of just over 100, has the distinction of being the smallest town ever to produce a consensus All-American. His jersey, No. 71, is retired.

Broderick Thomas, outside line-backer, 1985-88. "The Sandman" was a two-time All-American and three-time All-Big Eight performer, described by Coach Tom Osborne as possibly the best Cornhusker ever at his position. As a sophomore, Thomas was the third-leading tackler on a defense that ranked second in the nation. His senior year, he was a key figure on the defense that helped Nebraska win the Big Eight title.

33

TOPS

From Top to Bottom

Nebraska again took the crown as the Big 8's leader in overall athletic excellence for '88-89.

By Kevin Henry

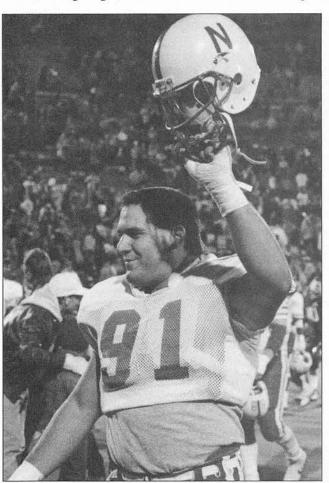
popular children's game is "King of the Mountain." One child climbs to the top of a dirt pile and challenges his friends to knock him off. If his cohorts push him from the pinnacle, the former "King" has been dethroned.

In the Big Eight, Nebraska has

climbed to the top and offered a challenge to its fellow members to nudge it from the peak. Considering all sports in the 1980s, no team has.

When looking back at the past decade, Nebraska has reigned with an iron fist in several sports. The Huskers have won four outright football titles (1981-83)

With football as its centerpiece title, Nebraska dominated the league last year.



and 1988) while sharing another (1984). NU has won three consecutive conference men's indoor track championships and four of the last five men's gymnastics crowns. Perhaps most impressive is the fact that Nebraska has brought 10 straight league men's swimming titles, 10 consecutive women's indoor track trophies and all of the volleyball championships ever determined in the Big Eight back to Lincoln. No other conference member can boast that feat in any sport.

All told, in 1988-89, Nebraska won four of the 11 men's first-place trophies in the Big Eight, beating out Oklahoma and Oklahoma State by one for last year's "most championships won" honor.

In giving each school anywhere from three to eight points for a first-place finish (depending upon the number of schools entered in that sport), two to seven for second, etc. (and no points if a team does not participate in that sport), the Huskers accumulated 109 points during the 1988-89 school year. Oklahoma State totaled 89 points, good enough for second place while Oklahoma and Iowa State round out the upper division with 76 points each.

Thanks to the support of the Nebraska state Senate and Husker fans around the nation, the construction of quality facilities (like the Bob Devaney Sports Complex, which has hosted NCAA basketball regional games and many Big Eight indoor track championships) has helped draw great athletes to Lincoln. Add to that the tradition of Nebraska athletics and you have a formula for success. Let's take a quick look at how the Huskers won the All Sports crown.

FOOTBALL

Coach Tom Osborne led NU to an 11-2 season and four national television appearances in 1988. Ten Huskers were named All-Big Eight while center Jake Young and linebacker Broderick Thomas garnered All-America honors. Nebraska earned a No. 10 ranking in the final Associated Press poll. As mentioned above, NU has won or shared five Big Eight titles and participated in 10 bowl games this decade.

CROSS COUNTRY

Men: Even though Nebraska has never won a Big Eight cross country championship, the Huskers have posted three second-place finishes since 1983 along with two third-place showings. Jacques van Rensburg finished fifth in the conference last year, helping Nebraska earn third behind perennial cross country powers Iowa State and Colorado. The individual highlight of the decade came when Jean Verster finished fifth in the NCAA meet in 1985.

Women: Last fall, the Lady Huskers won their second conference cross country title in four years (NU finished second in 1987). Nebraska placed three runners in the top eight and six in the top 13 on its way to the championship. The Lady Huskers have slowly built themselves into a league contender after beginning the decade with a last-place finish at the conference meet.

VOLLEYBALL

Nebraska has won every conference volleyball championship since the sport's league debut in 1976. In fact, every MVP at the conference tournament has been from Nebraska. NU was the national runner-up in 1986. Last season, All-American setter Lori Endicott was voted conference Player of the Year for the second time in as many seasons and head coach Terry Pettit was chosen as the American Volleyball Coaches Association Midwest Region Coach of the Year for the second consecutive season.

INDOOR TRACK

Men: Just as the Devaney Center has become the annual site of the conference

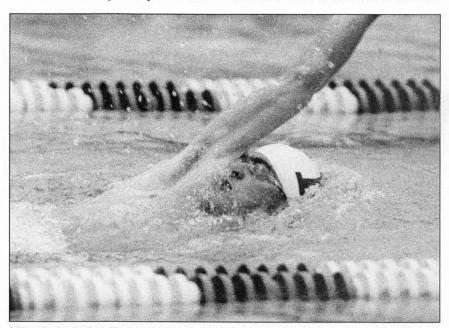
meet, Nebraska has become the annual champion. NU has won four meets, finished second on two separate occasions and come in third twice. That means that NU has been in the top three eight of the last 10 years. In 1988, Nebraska's Bill Troh set the 55-meter dash conference record with a 6.21 mark.

Women: In 1988, the Huskers won their 10th consecutive Big Eight title. Coach Gary Pepin saw his runners win the Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational and place sixth in the NCAA championships. This decade, NU runners have won three individual NCAA titles and two national championships as a team.

nized with All-America kudos. Also, junior Carole Johnson won her third consecutive Big Eight 100-meter backstroke title.

WRESTLING

Even though the Husker wrestling team's highest finish in the 1980s was a third-place mark in 1983, last year's squad provided some highlights. Two sophomores (Jason Kelber at 126 pounds and Scott Chenoweth at 167) were named All-America at the NCAA meet (where NU finished 17th) plus Jeff Coltvet recorded his 100th career win. The Huskers also beat Iowa State for the first time since 1951. Head coach Tim



Mike Irvin helps the swimmers stretch their championship string to 10.

SWIMMING

Men: Dominating is the only word to describe the Huskers when they hit the water. NU finished last in the league in 1978, fourth in 1979, and has not lost a league title since. NU holds seven of the 16 conference meet records (all set this decade). Last season, Nebraska set a school record by winning 10 matches in a season. Also, five Huskers earned All-America status.

Women: Nebraska won three straight conference titles from 1985-87 and have finished second or higher eight consecutive years. NU placed 29th at the NCAA meet and diver Julie May was recogNeumann was named 1989 Big Eight Coach of the Year.

BASKETBALL

Men: NU's cage program has finished third in the conference four times this decade. With national powers Missouri and Oklahoma also in the league, that mark becomes quite a compliment to the basketball program.

Last year, Danny Nee's Cornhuskers complied a 17-15 overall record and made their eighth NIT appearance (eventually losing to Ohio State in the second round). NU has been in the NIT more than any other Big Eight team and

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LEGEND: First-place finish is awarded points equal to number

of league participants in that sport. For example, first place in

football is worth 8 points; the wrestling champ gets only 4, be-

cause only a quartet of schools field wrestling squads.

has an 11-8 record in the postseason tourney.

Women: Head coach Angela Beck recorded her 50th career victory last year as the Huskers topped OU, 85-76. Earlier last season, the Huskers had a 29-game Devaney Center winning streak snapped by Iowa State. Maurtice Ivy, forward for the 1984-88 teams, is third on the Big Eight career scoring charts.

GYMNASTICS

Men: The squad has won seven championships during the 1980s and has finished second the other three years. The Huskers set the national scoring record with 288.15 points in the final competition of 1988. Last year, the Huskers won the Big Eight Invitational and took first at the conference championships. Coach Francis Allen witnessed six All-America performances at the NCAA meet, including four by Patrick Kirksey.

Women: Nebraska's lady gymnasts have won the Big Eight championship six times (including three consecutive titles). NU has won more league titles than any other Big Eight member. Last year, the Huskers broke the school scoring record seven times and established a new league scoring record at the Big Eight Championships. They finished fourth in the NCAA meet.

GOLF

Men: In a sport usually dominated by Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, NU has finished third in the conference three times and fourth on three other occasions (including last year when OU won the national championship).

Women: Nebraska finished fourth in the Big Eight race this year, marking the sixth time in 10 years that the Huskers have finished fourth or higher in the conference (with the team taking first in 1983 and second the following year).

TENNIS

Men: The Huskers took second in this year's Big Eight race, climaxing an upward climb throughout the 1980s. In 1980, NU placed sixth but, since then, NU has placed fourth two times, third in 1988 and second last year. Although they have never won a tennis title, the

Huskers are becoming an annual contender for the conference crown.

Women: NU ended the 1989 season in fifth place. In this decade, Nebraska has finished fourth on four separate occasions and placed as high as third in 1983. The Huskers won the league title in 1977 and shared the championship with Oklahoma in 1978.

SOFTBALL

Despite getting off to its worst start ever (6-10), the Husker softball team came on strong to win second-place in the Big Eight. NU had won five straight conference titles before this year. Nebraska also won the 1982 conference crown. The Huskers have won more league titles than any other team.

OUTDOOR TRACK

Men: NU has won two of the last three conference titles and has finished second on three other occasions. Nebraska is second only to Iowa State (which has won six championships in the 1980s) in accumulated points during this decade. After finishing last in 1980, NU has become one of the teams to beat in the Big Eight.

Women: Nebraska's first-place finish in the Big Eight last spring continued an impressive string of conference titles. Coach Gary Pepin's Huskers are at 10 and still counting.

BASEBALL

Last year's Husker baseball squad finished sixth in the Big Eight. Even though it was a disappointing finish, the rest of the decade has been filled with happier endings. Granted, the Huskers haven't won a league title since 1950, but NU finished second in 1980 and 1982 while taking third place five times. Overall, the Huskers are in third place (behind OSU and OU) in accumulated points with 48.

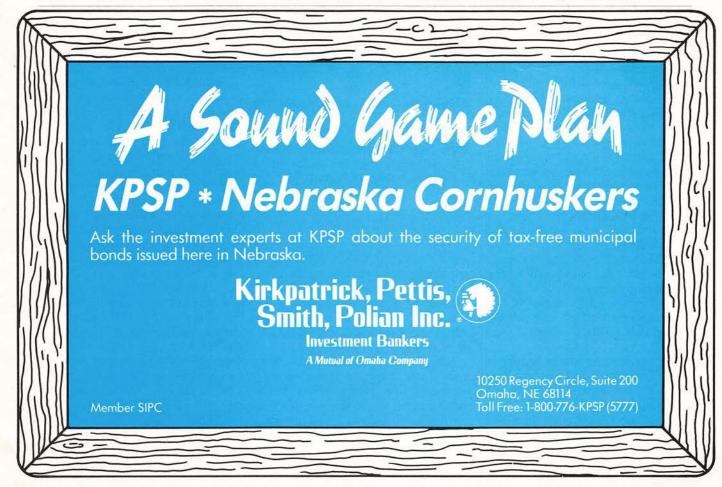
All sports considered, Nebraska is the

king of the Big Eight in the 1980s. No other school has totaled more points (by our system) than the Huskers. NU's 519 points is more than twice the amount of last-place Kansas State (247 points).

So, while the names of Turner Gill, Dean Steinkuhler and Mike Rozier have grabbed headlines in the past, athletes such as Kirksey, Ivy and Coltvet have been doing their parts to bring championships to Lincoln. And, while Gary Pepin's name may not receive the recognition that Tom Osborne's does around the country, he has helped his athletes reap national prestige.

Athletic director Bob Devaney once said, "I think the program here can stay with the best. I don't say that every year we'll have the best overall program in the conference. But we should compete every year."

If Nebraska can perform in the 1990s the way that it did this past decade, competing every year for conference honors could be a huge understatement.



A Crucial Point

JUCO TRANSFER KEITH MOODY GIVES NU ITS FIRST TRUE POINT GUARD IN THREE YEARS.

ne of the Nebraska basketball team's most glaring deficiencies last season was lack of a point guard. Coach Danny Nee is the first one to admit it. Sure, the Cornhuskers had players who filled the position. Most of the time Eric Johnson did the job, as best he could. But Johnson wasn't a true point guard. He would have been more comfortable as a shooting guard.

Clifford Scales tried to learn the position and continues to do so. He'll likely spend time there next season.

Still, one point guard isn't enough, particularly when that one had to be moved from another position, which is why Nebraska's spring recruiting featured an all-out search for a point guard.

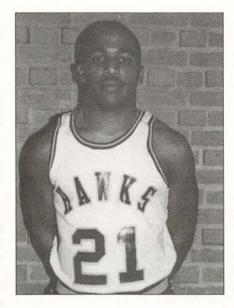
Apparently, the search was successful. After the Cornhuskers received a signed letter of intent from Keith Moody, a 5-10 point guard from Hagerstown (Md.) Junior College, Nee gave his latest recruiting class a passing grade.

"You can use pass-fail or satisfactoryunsatisfactory, whichever you want," he said. "We pass. I'm positive of that. It's very satisfactory. We've got depth, quality and talent."

And Moody was the key, not necessarily because he's more highly regarded than the three high school players Nebraska recruited during the NCAA's early signing period in mid-November but because of his position — point guard.

The Cornhuskers haven't had a true point guard since Brian Carr, who completed his eligibility during Nee's first season as Nebraska's coach.

Moody wasn't the Cornhuskers' first choice as a point guard. Initially, their efforts were directed at Carl Weldon from Allen County Community College in Iola, Kan. But Weldon drew out the



Moody gets high marks for his personality, attitude and work ethic.

recruiting process by delaying his decision, and Nee turned his attention elsewhere. Just in case, he had a Plan B. Coaches quickly learn the value of identifying alternate choices when it comes to recruiting.

Nebraska established contact with a high school player in Tennessee and another junior college player from Texas, as well as Moody, who quickly became a No. 1 choice. With him and Weldon, the situation was either-or.

"We'd heard about Keith," said Nee, who saw Moody play in the National Junior College Athletic Association tournament in Hutchinson, Kan.

Moody hit the winning shot as Hagerstown upset the No. 1-ranked College of Southern Idaho in the tournament's first round.

Moody made his official campus visit to Nebraska in late April. The more contact Nee had with Moody, "the more I liked him," Nee said. "What I like about Keith is his personality, his attitude and his work ethic."

"For our team, in the situation we're in, Keith will probably be the better player," said Nee. "He's solid."

Moody has played only one semester of basketball since graduating from high school in Herndon, Va., part of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. In 24 games at Hagerstown Junior College, he averaged 13.4 points, 7.6 assists, and 3.4 rebounds per game. He shot 54 percent from the field, including 49 percent from three-point range, and 75 percent from the free throw line.

Moody is 21 years old. "He's not a kid, he's a man," Jim Brown, his coach at Hagerstown Junior College, told the *Omaha World Herald* on the day he signed the letter of intent with Nebraska.

"He's extremely tough defensively. He can orchestrate the fastbreak, and he's a coach on the floor. In my opinion, Keith is one of the finest young men I've ever been around. And this is my 25th year of coaching and my 30th year of teaching, so I think I know a little bit about people," said Brown.

He also can play the game.

"Keith can shoot, and he's a true point guard, which is a tough combination to find. And he will listen," Brown said.

"Once he understands what Coach Nee's system is, I'm sure he'll run it just the way it's supposed to be run."

That was evident in his play at

Hagerstown Junior College, which finished with a 30-9 record. According to Brown, if Moody hadn't played second semester, the team wouldn't have made the NJCAA tournament field.

Moody has impressive statistics, as well as the unrestrained endorsement of his junior college coach. But he's unique in another way.

He was an outstanding multi-sport athlete in high school and planned to begin his college career at Virginia Tech on a football scholarship.

Moody, a quarterback and defensive back, directed Herndon High to its best record ever and rewrote the passing section of the school's record book in the process. He passed for 1,480 yards and 12 touchdowns, including three in one quarter of a game, and rushed for 450 yards and five touchdowns. Defensively, he was credited with 56 tackles and intercepted five passes.

Moody was the No. 2 quarterback on *The Washington Post*'s All-Metro team.

In basketball, he was chosen as Player of the Year in both his district and region. But he settled on football in college, until, that is, academic troubles sidelined him.

Moody left Virginia Tech, went home, and subsequently enrolled at Northern Virginia Community College, a school without interscholastic athletics.

Moody has demonstrated his maturity, both on the basketball court and in the classroom, according to Nee. "Keith Moody is the right person at the right time for our program," he said.

Moody isn't the only reason Nebraska's recruiting class receives a passing grade from Nee, however. He's also pleased with the three high school players who signed early letters of intent: 6-6 Eric Piatkowski, 6-7 Bruce Chubick and 6-4 Jamie Cole.

Piatkowski, from Rapid City, S.D., is the son of former American Basketball Association player Walt Piatkowski. The family moved to Rapid City from Scottsbluff, Neb., prior to Eric's sophomore year in high school. His brother, David, will be a returning senior starter on the Hastings College basketball team this season.

Piatkowski is an excellent shooter, according to Nee, an assessment that's

NEE ERA RECRUITS

DANNY NEE'S FIRST RECRUITING CLASS: 1986

Henry Buchanan, 6-0 guard, transfer from Hutchinson (Kan.) C.C.: 2-year starter, Academic All-Big 8

Eric Johnson, 6-2 guard, transfer from Baylor: 2-year starter, honorable mention All-Big 8

Beau Reid, 6-7 forward, Lancaster (Ohio) H.S.: 1-year starter, Academic All-Big 8, NU's leading scorer last year, will be a redshirt junior next year

Jeff Rekeweg, 6-7 forward, transfer from College of South Idaho: 2-year letterman, 1-year starter

Richard Van Poelgeest, 6-9 center, Ryswijk, Netherlands: 2-year starter, will be a senior this year

Derrick Vick, 6-6 forward, transfer from Hutchinson (Kan.) C.C.: 2-year starter

NEE'S SECOND CLASS: 1987

Jed Bargen, 6-5 guard/forward, Lincoln H.S.: honorable-mention Academic All-Big 8, transferred to Washington University in St. Louis

Rodney Curtis, 6-1 guard, Douglass H.S. in Upper Marlboro, Md.: left team for personal reasons

Rich King, 7-2 center, Omaha Burke H.S.: UPI Big 8 all-freshman team, 1-year starter, honorable-mention All-Big 8, tallest Husker ever, will be a junior

Kelly Lively, 6-11 center/forward, Torrington (Wyo.) H.S.: honorable-mention Academic All-Big 8, UPI Big 8 all-freshman team, will be a redshirt sophomore this year

Pete Manning, 6-8 forward, transfer from Seminole (Okla.) J.C.: 2-year starter **Clifford Scales,** 6-2 guard, Maywood (III.) H.S.: UPI Big 8 all-freshman team, will be a junior this year

Richard Smith, 6-7 forward, King H.S. in Chicago: left school for personal reasons

NEE'S THIRD CLASS: 1988

Eric Dolezal, 6-3 guard, La Porte (Ind.) H.S.: transferred to Loyola-Chicago **Dapreis Owens**, 6-7 forward, Mansfield (Ohio) H.S.: will be a sophomore this season

Ray Richardson, 6-7 guard, transfer from Hiawassee (Tenn.) J.C.: UPI all-transfer team and all-bench team, will be a senior this season

1989 HUSKER BASKETBALL SIGNEES		
Name	Ht.	School
Bruce Chubick	6-7	Atkinson, Neb. (West Holt)
Jamie Cole	6-4	Grand Rapids, Mich. (Creston)
Keith Moody	5-10	Hagerstown (Md.) Junior College
Eric Piatkowski	6-7	Rapid City, S.D. (Stevens)

born out by his statistics at Stevens High in Rapid City. His senior year, he averaged 25.6 points, 10.3 rebounds and 3.3 assists per game, shooting 60 percent from the field and 88 percent from the free throw line.

He missed only one free throw during the final two minutes of a game.

Piatkowski finished his high school career with 1,517 points, the second-highest total for a large-schools class player in South Dakota history. He also set the Class AA single-game scoring record with 51 points and his school's single-game rebound record with 26.

"Eric brought a new dimension to high school basketball in our area," said one observer. "He has great court sense. He's a tremendous passer, the most unselfish kid I've ever seen."

Piatkowski was the first sophomore in 17 years to be named to South Dakota's all-state team. "Even as a sophomore, he was more or less our leader," says Stevens High coach Lyle Pagel. "He's strong and shoots exceptionally well from the outside, and yet he's got that quick first step and can drive."

During Piatkowski's final two seasons, Stevens High won 36 of 45 games and the Class AA championship in 1989.

He finished third in the state high jump competition last spring — Stevens High won the team title — and he ran the quarter mile and threw the discus this spring as well.

Chubick's high school basketball career was just as impressive as Piatkowski's, if not more so.

He was a two-time, all-class Super-State selection, despite playing at a Class C-l high school, and was chosen honorary captain of the team his junior year. He averaged 33.6 points and 14.5 rebounds per game that year and led Atkinson-West Holt, coached by his father, to an undefeated season and the Class C-l state championship.

Chubick's senior year, Atkinson-West Holt extended its winning streak to 45 games before being upset 51-50 by Battle Creek in the district finals. Chubick scored 31 points in the loss, slightly below his season's average of 34 points per game. He grabbed an average of 18 rebounds per game.

Chubick signed a letter of intent early, he said, because the recruiting

process was "really getting kind of old. I knew when I visited Nebraska, it was the place for me."

According to Chubick, Nee told him his first year at Nebraska he'd "be able to compete for a spot on the team." However, "should things not work out, and if I don't think I'll get any valuable playing time, I'll have the option of redshirting," he said.

Chubick also seriously considered accepting a scholarship from Wisconsin. But Wisconsin's facilities, like those of every other school Chubick visited, didn't measure up to Nebraska's.

He also liked Nee's up-tempo offensive philosophy, which is understandable given the fact he led Nebraska's high schools in scoring for two seasons.

"One of the other schools (that recruited him) liked to slow it down, and they thought that was my kind of game. But I don't really think so," Chubick said.

That's not really Cole's game, either,

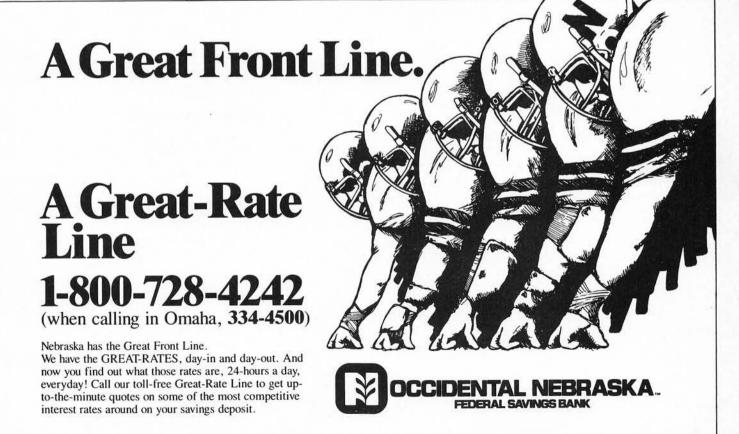
though the three-time all-city guard from Grand Rapids, Mich., wasn't able to run quite as much as he would have liked during his senior year because of injuries. Even so, he was able to average 19 points per game.

"Jamie is as quick as lightning when he's healthy," according to a reporter for a local newspaper.

"I've coached in this city for 12 years, and he's an outstanding talent and an even better person," said Cole's coach at Grand Rapids Creston High School, Tom Clinkscales. "He's the best player I've seen in this city since I've been here."

Grand Rapids has a population of approximately 200,000, with another 200,000 in the metropolitan area.

Van Coleman, who publishes the *National Recruiters Cage Letter*, rated Cole the 14th best high school senior offguard in the country. He's "an excellent offensive talent who can stick the three-point jumper," according to Coleman.



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"He has all the skills to be a big scorer in college."

Nebraska's biggest concern regarding Cole is that he has yet to meet the eligibility requirements under the NCAA's Proposition 48, which means he might have to sit out next season. He still intends to enroll at Nebraska, though, according to Nee.

Finally, a wrap-up of the Cornhuskers' recruiting wouldn't be complete without mention of Tony Farmer, a 6-9 transfer from San Jose State. "He can flat play," Nee says with a smile.

Farmer was one of 10 players who walked out on San Jose State coach Bill Berry at midseason. Berry was subsequently fired.

Farmer, who played in Lincoln during the Cornhuskers' Ameritas Classic last December, was given his release by San Jose State and contacted Nebraska.

Although he hasn't signed a letter of intent with the Cornhuskers — NCAA rules allow athletes to sign only one letter of intent in a sport — his commitment is firm, Farmer said.

He attended Nebraska's postseason honors banquet, sponsored by the Rebounders booster club.

This year's recruiting class fits into the overall picture with the two previous classes, says Nee.

"Two years ago, we recruited size. Last year, we got athletes. And this year, we're getting shooters."

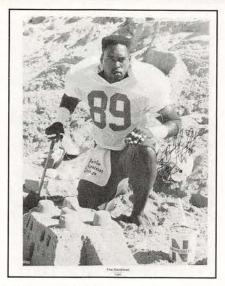
Lewis Geter and Carl Hayes, members of last year's nationally ranked recruiting class have yet to play for the Cornhuskers because of Prop 48, so they'll be new next season, too, as will Cris Creswell, a transfer from California-Irvine with a reputation as a three-point shooter, who also could get a look at point guard.

Nee is optimistic about the future. "If this group were playing six, seven or eight years ago, it would be a (Big Eight) contender right now," he said. "It's not perfect. We're still thin at point guard, but we can get by now, unless we have injuries."

With Moody joining the Cornhuskers and if Scales can continue to make the transition, point guard eventually should be solid, too.

At all the other positions, "we're like Noah's Ark," Nee said. Solid. ■

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PROPOSAL 42: WILL IT SURVIVE?

The NCAA's latest effort to increase academic standards has become hotly debated.

By Susan Hiller

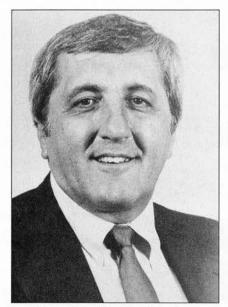
he controversy over whether or not the NCAA should impose academic standards at its member institutions is nothing new. In fact, many are unaware that in the 1960s, an NCAA 1.6 rule existed that used a formula based on the prospect's class rank or high school grade-point average and SAT or ACT score to determine eligibility. Ironically, that rule made it more difficult to obtain eligibility than today's version. In 1973, the NCAA membership voted to repeal the rule, and what followed for the next 10 years was a guideline that allowed eligibility to any student-athlete who maintained a 2.0 high school GPA.

Discussion continued in the late 1970s, and by the early '80s the NCAA

membership concurred that more stringent minimum academic standards were necessary to attain the level of integrity essential for any pursuits associated with higher education. In 1983, Bylaw 5-1-(j) was adopted and now requires that an incoming freshman student-athlete complete a high school core curriculum of 11 courses and earn a 2.0 GPA in those courses. It is also necessary for the prospects to have a combined score of 700 on the SAT or a composite score of 15 on the ACT. There is one option in the current rule that allows those who maintain a 2.0 GPA, but don't meet the standardized test minimums, to sit out their freshman year and are limited to three years of eligibility. But they do receive academic grants. Bylaw 5-1-(j),

more commonly referred to as Proposition 48, became effective during the 1986 academic year.

At the January 1989 NCAA convention, a new proposition was passed that takes Proposition 48 one step further. Proposal 42 denies athletically related financial aid to any student-athlete who fails to meet minimum requirements set forth by the NCAA and requires those individuals to forgo practice and competition their freshman year. Furthermore, they are allowed only three years of eligibility. In essence, Proposal 42 eliminates the option in Proposition 48 that allowed partial qualifiers to obtain a grant. If the NCAA does not repeal Proposal 42 at its next convention (scheduled for January 1990), the new



Temple athletic director Charles Theokas



Mississippi Chancellor Gerald Turner



Georgia Tech faculty representative William Sangster

rule will become effective in August 1990.

The 1989 NCAA Convention was termed uneventful until John Thompson, head basketball coach at Georgetown University, walked off the court of his own game against Boston College on Jan. 14, in protest of the new NCAA rule. Thompson contends that the standardized tests (SAT and ACT) used to determine the requirements for aid and eligibility are unfair to the underprivileged, primarily blacks. He states that he doesn't think blacks are incapable of meeting the NCAA standards, but believes that the economically deprived lack the same opportunities of those from higher income brackets.

Statistics from the NCAA indicate that nine of ten athletes who are Propostion 48 casualties are, in fact, black.

Thompson's objections sparked a number of Proposal 42 opponents to voice their opinions. Most notable was John Chaney, head basketball coach at Temple University, who appeared on ABC's "Nightline" and CBS' "Face The Nation."

Charles Theokas, athletic director at Temple, supports Chaney's convictions and has voiced his own opposition to Prop 42. In fact, Theokas was the proposition's foremost opponent at last January's convention and was heard by the membership when he made an emotional speech pleading with them to vote against it.

"I believe it would prohibit opportunities for some student-athletes," says Theokas. "It takes away opportunities for furthering education by taking away the probability of athletic scholarships."

John Bolvin, faculty representative from the University of Pittsburgh, also opposes Proposal 42.

"Most of the students who become partial qualifiers do so because of the SAT or the ACT score and many of them are minority students," Bolvin said. "From my experience, students who grow up in low income districts can do well in school, but their preparation is not the same as those from the better districts. Therefore, they don't score as well on the standardized tests.

"It's not that they have poor grades—they've worked hard," he continues.
"But then they are not able to become qualifiers, and they are the very ones who need the aid to help them in that first year."

Not everyone believes Proposal 42 is racially biased, and many contend it has

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become increasingly important to improve standards for student-athletes simply because of their association with higher education.

One of its supporters is Dr. William Sangster, faculty representative from Georgia Tech.

"I think it provides the means for further implementation of higher academic standards that was begun with Proposition 48," he states.

Is it racially biased?

"I was on the committee that first came up with Proposition 48, and it was a College Football Association committee which not many people remember," said Sangster. "I can tell you for sure, in our minds there was nothing racist in the sense that we were trying to eliminate opportunities for minority students. What we were trying to do was make sure the students who got to college had a chance on the basis of preparation to successfully cope with the college programs.

"Jim Wharton, who was chancellor at Louisiana State, was also the chairman of this particular committee. Jim had a good deal of information about SAT scores for all kinds of classes, and I would say it was not unknown to us that minority students had a tougher time with the SAT than did the majority students. On the other hand, that didn't mean to us, and it still doesn't mean to me, that that changes the competitive situation in which they will find themselves once they get to the campus."

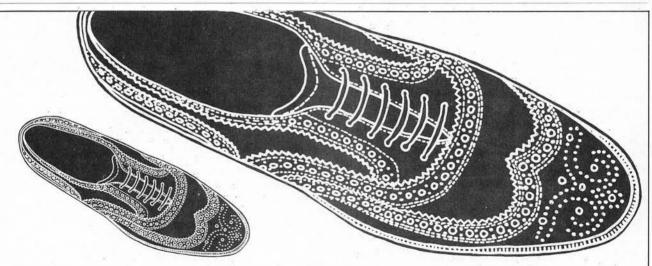
While Sangster voted in favor of the Proposition, he would be reluctant to vote for it again at the next convention. He now believes the rule's effective date (August 1990) is too close to its approval date (January 1989).

"I think the real question is how to go about implementing it," Sangster said. "I would say the last convention probably acted a little hastily in putting the implementation date so close to the passage date. You really aren't giving

kids who were already pretty close to the end of their academic programs, nor the high schools, very long to institute programs which would take that into account. My belief is that if you tell the high schools and the students what's required, they'll meet the standards as long as they think you mean it."

Gerald Turner, chancellor of the University of Mississippi, also supports Proposal 42, and for many of the same reasons.

"We supported Proposal 42 because we felt that it would increase the probability of the partial qualifier eventually being able to get a college degree and that it was in his best interest," Turner said. "There wasn't any intention of limiting access. The desire was that if a young man or woman did not have sufficient academic credit, they should go to a junior college and work to receive the remedial assistance needed so they could be ready to pursue a college or a university degree.



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GROOTERS: 42 IS STRICT BUT ON TRACK

"If a kid is a partial qualifier, then his sophomore year is going to be like his freshman year, and then you only have a player for two years," said Turner. "He might as well go to a junior college and play two years and then come back and be ready to play for you. Then from his own athletic standpoint, he's playing four years.

"The argument of access is just not a real one if, in fact, the student goes on to a junior college. His access to the university is not diminished."

Are the standardized tests in question really racially biased?

Ironically, at a time when discrimination against racial minorities is being questioned, a New York federal judge recently ruled that a state can no longer award scholarships based solely on the results of SAT scores because the exam discriminates against females. Research has proven that females have consistently lower scores than do males. New York and Massachusetts are the only two states that award state scholarships based solely on a student's SAT score.

"There's no question that black students don't score as well on them (standardized tests) as white students," said Turner. "The only question from there is, does that information have any relevance to how well they do in school? The studies I've seen show that GPA is still the best predictor, but the GPA plus the ACT or SAT score gives you an even better predictor.

"If these tests point out that minority students have some educational deficiencies that would be related to school performance, then I think all of those deficiencies need to be addressed."

Georgia Tech's Sangster believes the standarized tests are not culturally biased and challenges those who believe otherwise to do something about it.

"I would find it very useful if those people who think the SAT is culturally biased would work on producing a verifiable test that would not be biased." But, says Sangster, "the test will also have to verify that the students are likely to be successful."

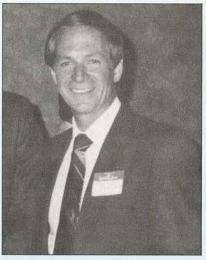
While no solution is going to make everyone happy, Temple's Theokas believes he has a solution.

"I think the answer is that we should just have freshmen ineligible in all s academic programs director for Nebraska's athletic department, Roger Grooters has dealt with the effects of Proposition 48. And despite the controversy surrounding Proposal 42, Grooters feels that efforts to improve academic integrity are worthwhile.

"What Prop 48 has done is send a message to the high school athletes across America," says Grooters. "It says that if the student-athletes are considering college, they must take academics seriously. Because of Proposition 48 more kids are coming to universities today who are qualified to handle the college experience than in past years. Many students are capable of qualifying for college, and they will take their studies more seriously if there is a chance that they might have to sit out a vear."

Opponents have called Proposal 42 too strict. The threat of a partial qualifier being denied financial aid plus losing a year of eligibility has scared many college administrators. While Grooters admits that the proposal is a bit rigid, the end result is worth it.

"I won't deny that Proposal 42 is strict," he says. "But, the end result is students who are better prepared to take college seriously. Today's student-athletes are capable of meeting NCAA academic stan-



Roger Grooters, NU director of academic programs

dards. The standards are not that demanding. With better preparation in high school, athletes can handle the college environment without much problem."

And what about accusations that standardized tests such as the ACT and SAT are biased against minorities?

"There is some validity that the tests are a little racist," Grooters explains. "But black counselors are saying that the black athletes are capable of meeting today's NCAA standards.

"It's all a matter of applying yourself toward your goal."

By Kevin Henry

sports, men and women," he says. "If they are on track at the end of the first year by virtue of the standards we've set up as a group in the NCAA, they have the next four years to play. That way the stigma of being a Prop 48 student-athlete is eliminated. That would clean the whole thing up."

Don't look for that happening anytime in the near future, though. Freshman ineligibility also has many opponents.

"It happens that I participated in athletics in college, and I was a freshman when I started," says Sangster. "The best grades I ever had were the first semester of my freshman year when I was playing football and trying to be an engineering student, too. I found that I had to budget my time more than I did at any other time — especially out of season. If the students were admitted

properly in the first place, it shouldn't be a problem."

After Thompson boycotted coaching his second game, he and other administrators from Georgetown traveled to NCAA headquarters in Kansas. The meeting resulted in an announcement that a recommendation would suggest that any additional requirements to Proposition 48 be deferred until the five-year study of the effects of Proposition 48, which is currently underway, is completed. It would be premature to anticipate what may happen next January, but it is certain that Proposal 42 will be a major subject of discussion prior to that time.

Editor's note: This article is reprinted with permission from Sidelines, a publication of the College Football Association.

Q: Is Proposal 42 an improvement on Proposition 48 or will it hurt college athletics, in your opinion? I have a feeling this is going to be the best season the Huskers have had in quite some time. We're all behind you, Coach. Tim Simmons, Lincoln, Neb.

A: Personally, I don't believe that Proposal 42 is an improvement on Proposition 48. It seems that there are some players who have done well in

their high school work and have a solid core curriculum who simply have a very difficult time in passing standardized testing like the ACT or SAT. Some of them have high test anxiety in a timed testing situation, and to have a player's whole future tied to a single test seems a little restrictive to me. Proposition 48 allows kids to come to school on scholarship as partial qualifiers if they have their grades but not the test scores and then demonstrate in their first year of sitting out whether or not they can handle college courses. Proposition 48 gives them that scholarship opportunity, whereas Proposal 42 eliminates the partial qualifier option. I'm all for academic integrity and emphasis, and I think our record here speaks for itself. But personally, I feel Proposal 42 is unduly harsh.

Q: How does the university decide whether a certain jersey number is retired or not? Do you have to win a certain number of awards and honors? Who have been the players at Nebraska to have their jersey numbers retired? Best of luck this season with the new quarterback situation.

Dale Watkins, Fargo, N.D.

A: Generally, if that individual has won the Heisman Trophy, it's automatic. Also, if a player wins the Lombardi Award or the Outland Trophy, we occasionally retire his number. Possibly a player like Tom Novak, who was an inspirational player, will also be considered. His number was retired even though he didn't win any of the most well-known individual awards. There's not really a set format, however.

Editor's Note: Center Tom Novak's number (60) was retired following the 1949 season on a vote of the N Club. Wingback Johnny Rodgers (20) and noseguard Rich Glover (79) received the same honor following the '72 season. Center Dave Rimington's jersey (50) was retired after the 1982 season, and

hone

I-back Mike Rozier (30) and guard Dean Steinkuhler (71) were added after the '83 campaign, completing the list at six.

Q: Some colleges give out helmet stickers for exceptional play. For example, Ohio State gives its players a buckeye while Georgia hands out bone stickers to its players. Would Nebraska ever do anything like that or has anything like that ever been done here? I'm looking forward to another Big Eight championship for the real Big Red this year. Brad Borden, Dubuque, Iowa

A: We feel that, in looking at some of those helmets, some players get things stuck all over their helmets and sometimes that loses its motivational effect because so many awards are handed out that it is hard to tell who has done what. We've just never gotten into that. We feel that the player's reward is doing a good job. If it's ever been done at Nebraska it would have been long before my time. It seems to be a long-standing tradition at some schools, but we just haven't

gone for the stickers like other schools have.

Q: Do you think that the Nebraska-Oklahoma game will lose some of its meaning now that Barry Switzer has resigned as head coach? Also, how do you think OU will change now that Gary Gibbs is the head coach? Thanks. Ben Morris, Des Moines, Iowa

A: As far as the OU-Nebraska game losing some of its meaning, it doesn't make any difference to me. We're still playing Oklahoma. It wasn't me coaching against Barry Switzer that was important, in my opinion. I suppose that those who had a great affection or dislike for Coach Switzer might feel that the game has lost some significance. As far as I'm concerned, we're still playing Oklahoma, which we always have done. Oklahoma had a strong program before Coach Switzer took over, and

I think their people are committed to keeping those standards pretty high, no matter who the coach is. It's not a per-

sonality issue.

I think Gary Gibbs will do a fine job. I don't know him all that well, but he seems to be an excellent coach and a fine person.

If you have questions for Coach Osborne, address them to 'Ask Tom Osborne," P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, NE 68501. **■**



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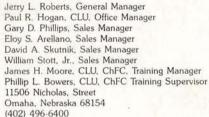


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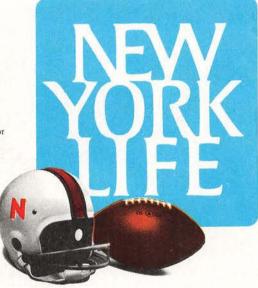




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